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THE TIMES

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When friends can corrupt
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FRIDAY 30p EVERY WEEKDAY

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Grand jury hears of 'nods and winks' Lewinsky tells of encounters with Clinton

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON
MONICA LEWINSKY made her long-awaited appearance as a witness yesterday before the grand jury investigating whether she and President Clinton had a sexual relationship and then lied to cover it up.
Having accepted immunity, she has told prosecutors that they did have sexual encounters, contradicting both the President's denial and her own in the Paula Jones case. Ms Lewinsky was expected to provide explicit details of oral sex to the grand jury hearing, which was closed to the public.
On the alleged cover-up, Ms Lewinsky was reportedly ready to say that Mr Clinton never told her directly to lie but there were "nods and winks" to suggest how she could be evasive. Mr Clinton insists he did not ask anyone to lie.
Ms Lewinsky has also told Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, that Mr Clinton told her if she returned the gifts he had given her — only "trinkets", according to the White House — she would not have to talk about them to investigators.
Ms Lewinsky's arrival at the federal court house in Washington, besieged by media and tourists, was undoubtedly a pivotal moment for Mr Clinton's presidency. With extra security in place, she was driven to a side door and allowed to go up to the third floor in a lift normally reserved for judges.
Her interrogation lasted throughout the day. The



Clinton: did he tell Lewinsky to lie?

developments avidly. Talk radio hosts were swamped with callers wanting to discuss the ramifications, television networks interrupted their regular diet of day-time soap operas to broadcast Ms Lewinsky's arrival at the court.
Cable news networks went into "wall-to-wall Monica" coverage, endlessly re-running clips of Mr Clinton and Ms Lewinsky embracing at a 1996 fund-raiser in Washington.
Newspapers and news-magazines were filled with speculation. It was astonishing that so much could be said and written about a grand jury hearing that was conducted behind closed doors.
Mr Clinton will testify a week on Monday by closed-circuit television from the White House. There was nervousness among his aides as they awaited the result of FBI tests on a dress Ms Lewinsky says bears a semen stain from the President.
The White House was determined to put on a business-as-usual face. The President and police officers attended an event in the Rose Garden promoting gun control. A spokesman, Barry Iviv, said: "His mood is great."
Nonetheless, Mr Clinton spent time, as he does every day now, closeted with private lawyers to prepare his testimony about a relationship that he refuses to discuss, having once told reporters he would like them to have more details rather than less and sooner rather than later.
Americans followed the de-



Monica Lewinsky arrives at a Washington court to appear before the grand jury

Labour MPs 'nobbled' over report on spin doctors

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR
A BITTER row over the political role of Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's £87,000-a-year press secretary, erupted yesterday with Conservative claims that Labour MPs had been "nobbled" by party whips to remove any criticism of Government spin doctors from a Commons report.
Tories and Liberal Democrats were incensed that a "balanced" draft report on the Government press service put forward by Rhodri Morgan, Labour chairman of the Commons Public Administration Committee, had been "deliberately shredded" by Labour MPs.
In the first such division since the general election, Opposition MPs insisted on publishing their own minority report which demanded that political appointees involved in party campaigning should not be paid by the taxpayer.
The key issue which divided the 11-strong committee on party lines was a refusal by Labour MPs to include any call for tighter controls over Mr Campbell's overtly partisan role at the heart of the Government and his authority to manage civil servants.
Labour MPs also blocked any references to Mr Campbell's Labour Party credentials and refused to support a move for tape recordings of Downing Street briefings to be retained for 12 months.
However, in one of the few points of agreement between MPs on the committee, both reports did express fears that Mr Blair's new public relations command centre at Downing Street could work to the Labour Party's advantage.
MPs revealed that Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary, had informed them that the expected cost of the new strategic and communications unit in the coming year was £416,000.
The unit is made up of a seven-person team, a mix of civil servants and political advisers, who were responsible for the Government's first annual report published last week.
Tory and Liberal Democrat MPs believed there was a danger that it could blur lines between civil servants and political aides. Even Labour MPs called on the Government to clarify the role of the unit and to explain "how it distinguishes between legitimate activity on behalf of the Government and activity which could unduly advantage the party of Government". But the row over
Continued on page 2, col 7



"I'm going to pass you over to my communications unit"

Rates decision angers industry
The Bank of England came under renewed fire from industry and unions despite leaving interest rates unchanged at its monthly monetary policy meeting. Business groups gave only a token welcome to the decision, claiming that job losses and company failures are set to accelerate unless rates are cut.
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Genetically-altered crop plan sows fears among green lobby

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY AND NIGEL HAWKES
THE Government is planning to speed up the approval of genetically-modified crops in the face of a growing campaign of resistance by environmentalists.
The proposal to cut the number of tests before a trial is approved came as new research revealed GM crops have spawned a new generation of prolific and aggressive superweeds with inherited resistance to herbicides.
Despite fierce opposition from environmental groups, the Ministry of Agriculture yesterday proposed changes to the existing law which would shorten the testing procedure for GM seeds. The move was prompted by a recent appeal court ruling that, for the past three years, the ministry had been acting unlawfully by failing to implement seed-trial regulations fully.
Officials admitted that up to 1,200 existing trials, including those of about 160 genetically-engineered seeds, might have to be scrapped because the new rules could not be applied retrospectively.
"We regard the changes as little more than a technicality," a ministry spokesman said last night. "In our view the additional trials are irrelevant and do not provide any extra useful information."
The proposals were condemned by Friends of the Earth, the green pressure group, which accused the Government of cutting corners with food safety by seeking to shorten the seed-trial procedure.
"If these changes go through, they will halve the amount of data required before a new crop can be approved," Adrian Bebb, a

Ireland's swimming star banned

Michelle de Bruin, who as Michelle Smith inspired parties in Ireland when she won three Olympic swimming golds in Atlanta, was suspended for four years yesterday for tampering with a drugs test sample.
The penalty effectively brings her controversial career to an end. Now 28, she had hoped to compete in her fourth Olympics in 2000.
A panel of three lawyers ruled she was responsible for having placed a "lethal" dose of alcohol in a urine sample in January at a conference in Dublin today.
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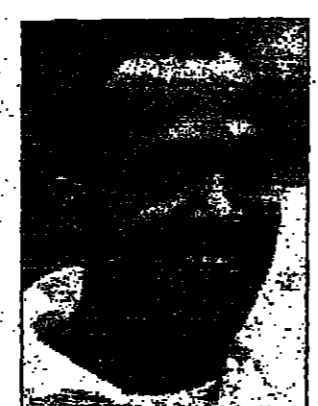
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Memorable day for the cricketing Butchers

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON AND JOHN STERN
AT LEAST one cricketing family had something to celebrate yesterday in spite of England's dismal batting collapse against South Africa at Headingley. As Mark Butcher, 25, made his maiden Test century, his father, Alan, was dramatically recalled to first-class cricket aged 44.
At Leeds, in the Final Test, Butcher Junior saved England from familiar humiliation, scoring 116 of England's first innings total of 230 all out. Butcher Senior was summoned from Tamworth, where he had expected to play for Surrey's Second XI, and scored 22 against Derbyshire at the Oval. The pair previously made history in 1991 by

television replay of his son's century-making stroke. The absence of Mark, who also plays for the championship leaders, was partly responsible for his father's call-up.
Arriving at noon, after driving from Somerset, Butcher Sr batted at No.8, coming in with the score at 198 for six, and dispatched his first ball for four. "It was a very strange morning, but it was a pleasure for me," he said. "I was disappointed not to see Mark's ton, but I am delighted for him, because it can become a milestone round a bloke's neck."
Altogether Butcher Sr hit four boundaries in his 22, made from 34 balls in 45 minutes. He was essentially out of his playing across the line to Kevin Dean, the left-arm

always switched off in the Oval dressing-room. In the end he watched the replay in the tea interval.
To complete the family occasion, Mark Butcher's brother-in-law, Alec Stewart, the England captain, led the team's applause when he hit the boundary that took him to his century. Mark is married to Stewart's sister, Judy.
Butcher Sr, a left-handed batsman like his elder son, played one Test for England, against India, in 1979. Gary, his other son, plays for Glamorgan, but there the family's happy day came to an end. He is currently out of favour and was not selected against Essex.
Test match, page 48
Surrey game, page 44



Mark Butcher's ton...



...missed by his father

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Field warns of dangers in Chancellor's plan for welfare reform

By Jill Sherman
Chief Political Correspondent

FRANK FIELD reopened the dispute over welfare reform last night with a strong attack on one of Gordon Brown's most important proposals, insisting that it was "fraught with danger" and would encourage dishonesty and fraud.

suggested that several policies implemented by the Chancellor could backfire unless further measures were taken, and stressed the dangers of extending means testing. In his resignation speech in the Commons last week, Mr Field suggested that the Chancellor had blocked many of his plans. In a speech to the Social Market Foundation last night, he criticised much of Mr Brown's work and served notice that he would organise a campaign for alternative proposals.

aimed at helping working families on low income, and was the centrepiece of Mr Brown's March Budget. The policy, which comes into effect in October 1999, will guarantee all working families a minimum £180 a week. But Mr Field argued that the tax credit would mean a big extension of means testing, and could be liable to abuse by both employer and employee. "It entails huge dangers," he said. "The most immediate is the possibility of fraud — of employers persuading workers of the benefits of a very low

wage which entitles them to maximum WFIC." Employers could then top up "this fraud-determined minimum wage" with big cash payments. If the tax credit was operated honestly, it could ensure that those with children who work are better off than if they remained on benefit, he argued. But Mr Field said that following discussions with fraud squad officers he was convinced that fraud would occur. "If offers huge bonuses for dishonesty; it strengthens the employers' hold over work people —

'cheat and both of us will be better off: it pulls employees into a spider's web of dishonesty and corruption: it rewards employers paying low wages." He said the tax credit could not ever be considered, an end in itself and would have to be phased out as real wages rose. Mr Field then turned his attack on the Government's failure to implement a compulsory second pension. Over the last year he has repeatedly argued that individuals need to make more contributions to build up their own second pensions. Although the Prime Minister

has been happy for Mr Field to float the idea, Mr Brown balked at the prospect of high start-up costs. Mr Field warned yesterday that Mr Brown's decision to set up a minimum guaranteed pension, by offering pensioners an extra £5 a week, "would play havoc with the economy", by reducing incentives to save, unless it was backed up by a compulsory pension. "If this guarantee is offered without extending compulsory pension savings for those now in work, then the most powerful and disturbing signals will be sent out to today's

workforce. It will be don't worry, don't bother saving, spend all you can today for tomorrow's taxpayer will look after you through the new guaranteed pension." He stressed that the alternative to Mr Brown's means-tested approach had to be spelled out and the public had to be persuaded of its merits. "That is the primary reason I have returned to the backbenches. I believe I will now have greater opportunity and more influence from that position."

Media, pages 37-40

Probation service to toughen up its image

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

PLANS to overhaul the probation service to rid it of its image of being soft on offenders were unveiled by the Government yesterday. The revamped service would be renamed and the probation officer's legal duty to "befriend" criminals replaced by an instruction that punishment is a key part of dealing with offenders. Ministers are also considering changing the names of community penalties because of a public perception that some sound like voluntary work and others suggest a tolerance of crime and offending.

It is estimated that the restructuring could produce a long-term saving of £20 million a year on the £428 million annual budget. One-off costs for the overhaul could be £9 million.

Eleven new names have been considered for the restructured service, but the favourites among senior ministers are the Public Protection Service or the Community Justice Enforcement Agency. Other names include the Offender Risk Management Service, the Community Sentence Enforcement Service, the Justice Enforcement and Public Protection Service, the Public Safety and Offender Management Service and the Community Protection and Justice Service.

Lord Williams of Mostyn, the prisons Minister, said change was needed because there was a public misperception that probation was a soft option. "I think there is a perception of probation order or community service order that leads people to think some has got off. There is a public misperception that probation is a soft option."

Under the Government proposals outlined in a consultation paper, the probation service would become a national agency directly responsible to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. The current fragmented organisation of 54

probation service areas would be cut to 43, with their boundaries matching those of the police forces in England and Wales and the Crown Prosecution Service. The new unified national service would be led by a director-general working in London, and the existing 15,000 probation staff would be employed by the Home Office rather than locally based probation committees. Each of the 43 probation areas would be headed by a chief officer who would be accountable to the chief executive.

The Government wants to see an end to the probation officer's duty to "advise, assist and befriend" offenders which, the paper says, is completely out of line with expectations of the courts. It also has little relevance to the work of the modern probation officer.

In the new service there would be a statutory duty on officers to "confront, challenge and change offending behaviour and to recognise punishment as a central part of that process".

The consultation paper also suggests a regional element to the new service based on the current ten regions: North East, Yorkshire and Humber, North West, East Midlands, West Midlands, Eastern, South West, South East, Greater London and Wales.

Chief officers in the service said they were sceptical about plans to change the names of their service and warned of the danger that a nationally run organisation could encroach on local control.

The National Association of Probation Officers was granted leave by the High Court for a judicial review of plans by Teesside Probation Service to employ "offender supervisors" to monitor convicted criminals, including sexual offenders. They fear that the appointments will jeopardise public safety.



John Prescott leaving Downing Street: sometimes he works from wicker garden chair

Prescott is comfortable in the seat of power

By Nicholas Watt, Political Correspondent

JOHN PRESCOTT has wasted no time in slipping his feet under Tony Blair's desk during the Prime Minister's long summer holiday in Italy and France. Every morning, Mr Prescott's Jaguar car sweeps through the iron gates of Downing Street and drops him outside No 10. Armed police officers wave Mr Prescott through the grand door as he makes his way to the Prime Minister's study for a couple of hours' work. Unlike last year, when Mr Prescott and Peter Mandelson vied with each other to mind the shop during the Blair's holiday, the Deputy Prime Minister has been left firmly in charge. Throughout this week, Mr Prescott has

started his day by meeting Downing Street officials to discuss all forthcoming business. He then settles down behind the Prime Minister's desk and telephones ministers to check up on their progress. On the odd occasion, Mr Prescott has been spotted working from one of the Prime Minister's wicker chairs in the Downing Street garden. Mr Prescott has even started to behave in a prime ministerial manner in public. During Wednesday's launch of Playday '98 in the Downing Street garden by the Culture Minister Janet Anderson, Mr Prescott dropped by and chatted to scores of children who were dressed as pirates, foot-

ballers and fairy princesses. Michael Heseltine, who was John Major's deputy, had no need to use the Prime Minister's office when he maniaed the shop because he was based down the corridor in the Cabinet Office. After lunch Mr Prescott returns to his own department where he reverts to his normal role as plain Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Environment, Transport and the Regions. Downing Street yesterday confirmed that Mr Prescott has taken up semi-residence in No 10. A spokesman said: "As Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott helps to ensure the effective delivery and presentation of government policy."

Minister supports use of CS spray on mentally ill

By Polly Newton
Political Reporter

THE use of CS gas by police to subdue violent mental patients was backed by a Home Office minister yesterday despite widespread concern among health workers and charities.

Lord Williams of Mostyn said in a written parliamentary answer that the gas was less harmful than a blow from a police baton. "Regrettably, there may be occasions when police officers need to use force against people suffering from mental illness, and the use of CS spray may well represent the most benign option."

His support for the practice comes after the publication earlier this week of a report which found that a third of NHS mental health trusts had patients whom police had controlled with the use of CS spray. The report's authors, from the Bethlem and Maudsley Hospital NHS Trust in South London, said they were "appalled".

Lord Williams said the effects of CS spray wore off relatively quickly and had no significant long-term effects. "The physical impact involved in making a baton strike will inevitably carry a greater risk to the health of the person who is struck."

Eddie Marchant, the Deputy Chief Constable of Durham, which has used the spray three times on mental patients in the last year, defended the practice.

Mr Marchant said: "The facts of life are that if a person is violent through drink or drugs — or they are mentally deranged — overall they are violent and have to be handled, you cannot differentiate."

"You try to be sensitive because there is a subtle difference. But at the end of the day, in terms of the officer's training, he has to try to bring an end to the violent situation. People are less likely to get hurt with the use of CS spray."

Ian Harper, spokesman for the National Schizophrenia Fellowship in Scotland, said last night: "There has been a lack of full information about the full effects of CS gas. There seem to be conflicting views about how potentially dangerous it can be."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Terrorists receive early release forms

Terrorists needing help to complete early release forms given to prisoners in Northern Ireland yesterday can apply for legal aid to employ a solicitor of their choice. The eight-page form is the first step in the early release scheme drawn up by the Government in accordance with the terms of the Stormont agreement. The sentence review commission said that some prisoners could be free by the end of August if application forms are returned next week. Members of the IRA and loyalist UDA are eligible for early release.

The form asks if the prisoner intends becoming a supporter of any of the four terrorist groups banned from early release; for the names of witnesses that might give oral evidence on behalf of the prisoner; and any supporting documents the prisoner feels helpful to the application. Victims will be informed of any pending release but will not be entitled to object to or delay the release date.

Mandelson in clear

Peter Mandelson has been assured by his Permanent Secretary that there is no unacceptable conflict of interest between his responsibility for the Millennium Dome and his new post as Trade and Industry Secretary. Bob Ayling, chief executive of British Airways, is also chairman of the New Millennium Experience Company, of which Mr Mandelson is the sole shareholder. British Airways has contributed over £6m to the Millennium Dome.

MPs rebuke Short

Clare Short was rebuked by an all-party committee of MPs yesterday after her outspoken attack on international aid agencies for running unnecessary appeals which made people "flinch and turn away". MPs said they were "huffed" by Ms Short's attack on charities such as the Red Cross. The International Development Select Committee said: "We consider it to have been premature to announce in such bald terms that there was no lack of money."

Wife forgives killers

The wife of a British aid worker battered to death while on a mercy mission in Hungary told his killers yesterday that she forgave them. Jo Pollard met two of the three men convicted of murdering her husband last August when she visited them in jail in Budapest. She told them: "I am a Christian and God put these words into my mouth: 'I have love for you and I have forgiven you'. Her husband Michael, 62, died from heart failure caused by internal bleeding.

Draper faces action

Derek Draper, the lobbyist who claimed direct access for clients to government ministers, faces legal action over an eight-year-old debt to a university students union. In 1992 Mr Draper was ordered by a county court to pay the union at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology more than £2,000 in damages and costs. But the students' leaders have discovered that the money apparently ever reached them.

New Pill more efficient

A new "morning after" pill almost eliminates the chances of a woman becoming pregnant, researchers have found. In trials by the World Health Organisation, involving nearly 2,000 women, the pregnancy rate was only 1.1 per cent, compared with 3.2 per cent for women using the current pill, a report says in today's *The Lancet*. Derived from a hormone called levonorgestrel, it has none of the usual side-effects, such as nausea, suffered with the current tablet.

MPs voice alarm over FE college standards

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

A CROSS-PARTY committee of MPs expresses alarm today over standards in further education colleges, which will be among the main beneficiaries of the Government's rise in education spending. In about one college in ten, fewer than half the students leave with the qualification they expected on enrolment, the Public Accounts Committee says. It urges the Further Education Funding Council to help the worst-performing colleges by "identifying strategies for success and setting challenging targets".

The MPs' report comes as the Government prepares to invest heavily in the 443 further education and sixth-form colleges in England. They are expected to create more than 400,000 additional student places by 2002. Training at FE colleges will be a major element in the New Deal jobs programme. Ministers invested an extra £100 million this year and intend to increase funding by £255 million more next year. The powerful committee's report on the management of growth of English colleges notes that the FE sector was given four main objectives in 1992, before the abolition of local authority control. These

were to increase growth in student numbers; improve levels of student retention; raise levels of achievement; and improve efficiency. "Overall, the sector has responded well in terms of increasing the numbers of students and securing efficiency improvements, but more needs to be done to raise levels of student retention and achievement," it says. The MPs acknowledge the "considerable achievement" of colleges in achieving growth of 26 per cent in student numbers, but question the quality of some of the education provided.

The eyes and ears of No 10 in Whitehall

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

THE main task of the strategic and communications unit at the centre of yesterday's dispute over spin-doctors is to co-ordinate the Government's message. It plans the themes for the week and tries to ensure that the message grabs the news agenda. The staff try to avoid clashes in major policy announcements and are proactive in persuading departments to delay or bring forward particular story lines. Their work is not daily firefighting — which is the main job of Alastair Campbell and the No 10 press office — for they also plan special events and future announcements. Officials also pick and groom ministers for set-piece occasions. They write the speeches, choose the venue and often have a say in who should be included in the audience. They try to brief ministers generally on wider Government policy objectives and

brief and grill Ministers who have agreed to take part in radio and television interviews. They also focus on the regional press and place articles by ministers in local papers throughout the country. The routine task of the unit however is to act as "the eyes and ears" of No 10 in Whitehall. They make it their job to find out the policy work going on in departments and when announcements are likely. An official in each department is also assigned to be the liaison person with the unit. It has also commissioned some polling to see if the Government message is getting through to the public. This way staff find out which Minister is "in or out" with the public. The unit is headed by Alun Evans, a career civil servant, and former private secretary to David Blunkett, Education and Employment Secretary. There are two political advisers attached to the unit.

BLAIR PRESS SECRETARY ROW

Continued from page 1
The main report dominated, with Tories accusing the Labour MPs of acting as "Alastair Campbell's glove puppets". David Ruffley, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds and a former Tory political adviser, described the demolition of the original draft report as "a disgrace". "They have been nobbled by their party whips," he said. "They have sought to get this report out in the August recess and I have no doubt that Mr Campbell suggested this." Andrew Tyrie, Tory MP for Chichester who moved the minority report, said that he had asked the committee to hold a formal inquiry into the role of political advisers, and their relations with the press and lobbyists.

Mr Morgan, Labour chairman of the committee, made clear that the inquiry had found "no evidence" to show that Mr Campbell had abused his role "in order to gain undue preference for party purposes". But as his official report makes clear, the MPs accept there is "a difficult boundary between effective presentation and party political advocacy" and formally calls on the Cabinet Secretary to "remain vigilant". Labour MPs refused to include such lines as: "Unusually for holders of the job Mr Campbell is neither an administrative civil servant nor a GICS officer, but a journalist with a Labour party background." Mr Campbell was on holiday yesterday and unavailable for comment.

On the up and up

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Angel of M...ces legal...her own...

Council's 'waste...olution for o...

Angel of Mostar faces legal action by her own team

Women who joined convoy to Kosovo claim their lives were put in danger, reports Daniel McGrory

THE aid worker known as the "Angel of Mostar" may be sued by her relief team for recklessly endangering their lives on a mercy mission to Kosovo which nearly ended in disaster.

Sally Becker allegedly accused the women volunteers — who each paid £500 to join "Operation Angel" — of being cowards after complaints about a 15-hour trip in an ex-army coach on a mountain track they had been warned to avoid. She was also said to have made some pay their fares home. Six of the 26 women said they were taking legal action so those who donated money "know the truth about Sally Becker".

When the group reached the Albanian border with medicines and clothes for refugees, they were refused entry. They spent 10 days living on soup and beans before fleeing in the middle of the night and returning to Britain without Ms Becker. She ended up in jail and on hunger strike for illegally crossing the border.

Mary Banks, 56, from Sheffield said: "We are worried stiff that she might take other convoys to Kosovo. Volunteers may end up getting killed."

However, others said that the complaints were "trivial and petty when you look at the whole picture". Christine Gregory, a student nurse from Hawarden, North Wales, drove an old ambulance packed with supplies. "It was a difficult drive but not impossible. Nobody got hurt, nobody went off the edge of the mountain and we did succeed in delivering our supplies."



Becker: saddened to hear of the women's distress

Aid workers in Kosovo described Ms Becker's party as "Hell's Angels" because they were so ill-prepared. One of the women — Jenny Wheatham, 47, from Shoreham-by-Sea, west Sussex — said she thought they were going to die. "Sally made me pay my own air fare home and made me feel like a coward."

Mrs Banks, who drove the bus, said: "We didn't mind being injured if we were in a war zone but to die before we got there as so nearly happened was just stupidity. Sally had not done enough preparation. When we complained we were made to feel like wimps."

Mrs Banks has now contacted a solicitor. "Sally was told the mountain pass was unsuitable for a 36ft-long coach but

she still said it would be OK. The girls in the back were screaming to be shot by snipers because they thought that would be better than going over the edge in a bus."

Maude Doran from Staines, Surrey — who shared the driving — said: "We were escorted by local people who knew the road and knew we were capable of making the crossing. It was a hazardous drive but nothing like as bad as some people are making out."

Ms Becker said that she was "saddened" to hear of the volunteers' distress. "Thank goodness nobody was hurt. Unfortunately our route was changed at the last minute by the authorities but they kindly provided a police escort. The chief of police from Tirana accompanied us throughout the journey and organised protection. I'm proud to say that we managed to deliver several tonnes of vital aid to hundreds of people so in need."

She said she had had "nothing but support" from the other volunteers and that many had offered to join another convoy in September.

A spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said: "Her intention of saving women and children and victims of conflict is a noble one, but sometimes she creates more problems than she solves."

He said that taking refugees out of the mountains was "really dangerous" because of the snipers. "We tried to dissuade her but it was obviously in vain."



Bikers arriving at the Bulldog Bash yesterday. Police fear guns and explosives might be used in a feud between Hells Angels and a rival gang

Police warn of gang violence at biker rally

POLICE mounted a tight security operation at a bikers' rally yesterday amid fears that guns and explosives could be used in a feud between rival gangs (Stephen Farrell writes).

Scores of officers in bulletproof jackets searched motorcycles and cars bringing 20,000 enthusiasts to the Hells Angels-run Bulldog Bash at Long Marston airfield in Warwickshire. As the procession of Triumphs,

Yamahs and customised trikes arrived for the four-day event, sniffer dogs searched for explosives and armed officers stood nearby. The increased security follows a feud between the Hells Angels and their rivals, the Outcasts. Two Outcasts were stabbed to death in Battersea, South London in January and police say there have been shootings, arson attempts and seizures of explosive devices.

Thousands arrived at the 415-acre site yesterday after the Hells Angels twice rejected police requests to cancel it. Instead they agreed to co-operate with random vehicle searches and issued a joint warning statement with the police.

Superintendent Stephen Chamberlain, of Warwickshire police, wearing a bulletproof jacket, said the warnings about a further outbreak of violence

had come from the National Criminal Intelligence Service. All police leave for the weekend had been cancelled.

But Maz Harris, 49, a spokesman for the Hells Angels who has a PhD in motorcycle culture from Warwick University, said: "We have had zero arrests in 11 years at the Bulldog Bash. We have pretty good relations with Warwickshire police, but I think it is all a massive red herring."

Life after death of theologian who faked suicide

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A SEX offender who faked suicide and vanished on the day he was due to appear in court was jailed yesterday after three years living under a false identity. The sentencing of Thomas Osmond was watched by a determined detective who had refused to believe he was dead.

Osmond, 46, left a suicide note and made sure he was seen standing on the edge of an 80ft bridge when he was due in court in March 1995. The father of three lived as a bachelor in Bristol under the assumed name of Stephen Williams and worked as a telesales clerk. Detective Constable Ken Price, 52, finally traced him through a credit-card number issued to him in his assumed name, and arrested him as he arrived for work.

Yesterday at Newport Crown Court he was jailed for seven years, after admitting a serious sexual offence against a 14-year-old boy and two of indecent assault against a younger boy. He also admitted inciting his wife to commit an act of gross indecency against the younger boy.

Osmond had watched as a boy of 12 had sex with his wife, Lesley. Peter Murphy, prosecuting, described Osmond as a "clever man" who was taking a master's degree in theology at Cardiff University at the time of the offences.

"He is a dominant individual who brought the older boy completely under his control,"

he said. "They were interested in the occult and he treated the boy as his pupil."

At 7.30am on the morning of his original trial date, Osmond was seen standing on the edge of the town's George Street bridge. He did not turn up at court and the suicide note was found at the hotel where he had been staying. He was by then divorced from his wife, who had been given a suspended sentence for two indecent assaults.

After the case, Mr Price said: "I was never fooled by the suicide note. I felt he was far too clever a man to kill himself. I followed up many leads before the breakthrough came. He had the shock of his life when I turned up. I didn't give up because the families of the boys wanted justice. Their anguish was awful. They wanted to see him pay for what he had done."



Osmond: "too clever to kill himself"

Bride sees husband swept to his death

By PAUL WILKINSON

A BRIDE watched her groom swept to his death off a coral reef only three days into their honeymoon.

Liza Jones and her husband, John, were taking a stroll in the Indian Ocean surf off the Maldivian Islands when he suddenly disappeared beneath the waves. Mr Jones, 30, who could not swim, is believed to have stepped off the edge of a steep shelf and been dragged 20ft down by the current.

Onlookers went to his aid and a pair of British nurses who had been walking along the beach attempted to revive him, but he never regained consciousness. Mr Jones, from Formby, Merseyside, had celebrated his birthday the day before.

The accident on Tuesday happened just 72 hours after the couple, who were both primary school teachers, were married near Mrs Jones's family home in London. Last night his father Hugh, from Walton, Liverpool, said: "We are all completely stunned. John was a quiet, gentle person and the wedding was a wonderful day. John and Liza were so happy together."

Mr Jones, who was educated at Campion High School, Liverpool and Liverpool Hope University, taught at the Blessed Sacrament RC primary school in Walton and was organist at St Francis de Sales Church nearby. His wife was a teacher at a primary school in Southport.

Council's 'waste disposal' solution for old people

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

A LOCAL council that described elderly residents of nursing homes as "income producing raw material" and suggested that their bodies should be disposed of in the same way as harmful industrial waste will today be given a severe reprimand.

Castle Morpeth Council in Northumberland will be fined £250 by Patricia Thomas, the Local Government Ombudsman for the North, for refusing to pay for the funeral of a poverty-stricken old lady who had been in council care for 57 years and

who had no relatives. The council will also be ordered to reimburse the workers at a private care home who helped to pay for her funeral.

The ruling follows a complaint from Sonia Harwood, manager of the Howard Castle Nursing Home in Morpeth, who asked the council if it would provide help when one of its elderly residents, known as Maggie, died in January. Her savings of £450 did not cover all her funeral expenses.

Peter Wilson, chief executive of the council, told the

Ombudsman: "Without wishing to appear insensitive, one could argue that from a commercial viewpoint residents of a home are its income producing raw material."

As it was clear that Maggie's dead body was "controlled waste likely to cause pollution of the environment or harm to human health", he added, the home had "a specific duty" to dispose of the remains.

Mrs Thomas said the council's attitude was "extremely offensive" and found it guilty of maladministration.



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TOMORROW IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

Funny on the Fringe

Lee and Herring head north



Lee and Herring

PLUS

Pick of Edinburgh...

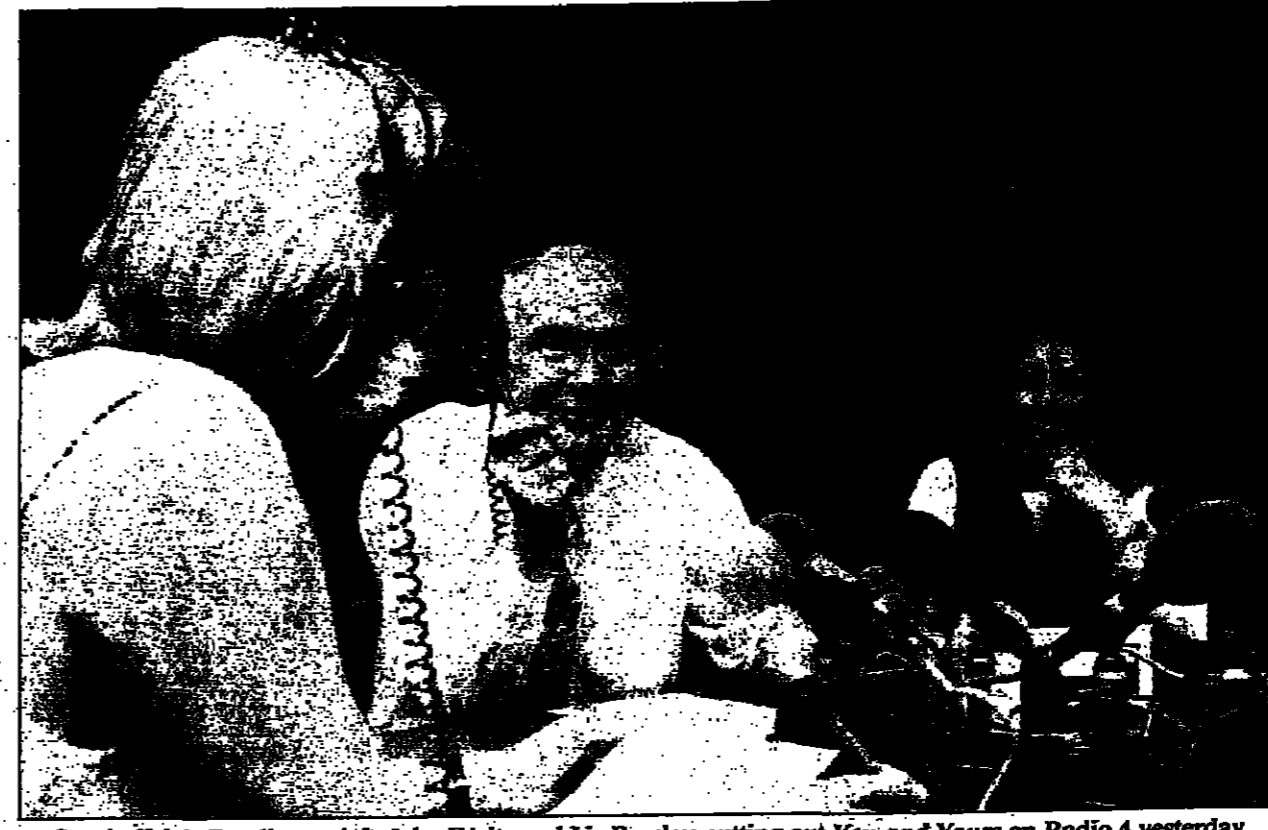
More hear less of the revamped Radio 4

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

MORE people are tuning into Radio 4 since its new schedule was introduced, but they are listening for less time.

According to the first quarterly Rajar audience figures since James Boyle, Controller of Radio 4, introduced dramatic programme changes in April, the station has got off to a bumpy start. While it has gained 90,000 listeners over the past three months, they are tuning in for 22 minutes less per week. People tuned in for 85.9 million hours a week, compared with 87.9 million in the previous quarter.

Overall, yesterday's figures also showed the BBC continuing to lose out to commercial stations. They topped the corporation's audience share for



On air: Tribie Rawlinson, left, John Waite and Liz Barclay putting out *You and Yours* on Radio 4 yesterday

the sixth quarter in a row with the gap widening to 4.3 per cent. Audience share at the BBC dropped from 47.7 per cent to 46.8 per cent while commercial radio increased from 50.1 to 51.1 per cent.

In the breakfast show wars, Chris Evans attracted another 62,000 listeners a week to his Virgin Radio programme for a weekly audience of 2,543,000. Zoe Ball and Kevin Greening lost 264,000 listeners on Radio One in a weekly total of 4,461,000.

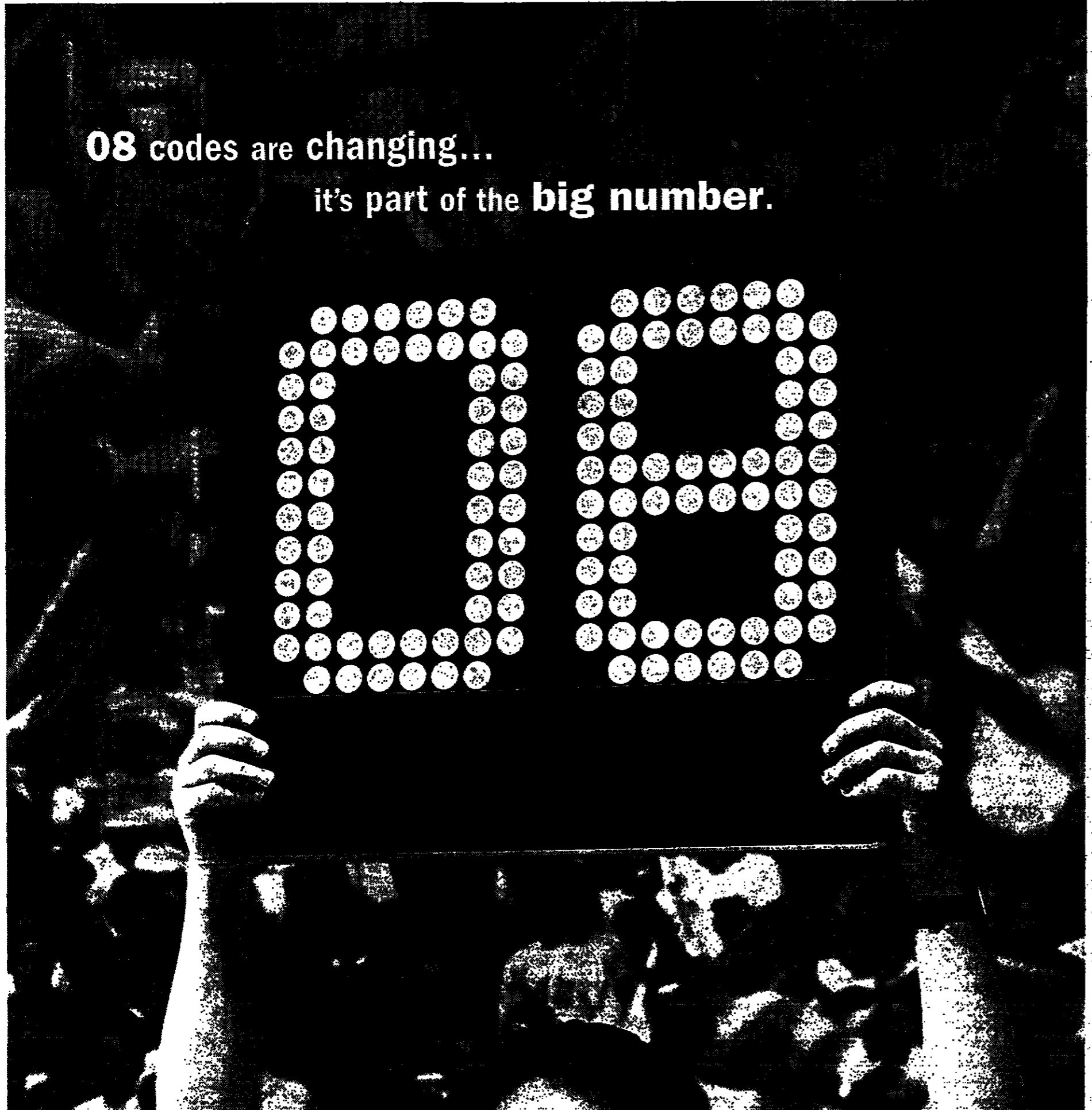
Mr Boyle said that he was delighted with the way things had gone after the introduction of 53 new programmes. "When I announced the changes I said that it was to gain long-term benefits, not a short-term quick fix. I'm extremely pleased that the effects have begun to show already.

"The network has undergone a wholesale change which many predicted would seriously damage the core audience. So it's a great achievement to have increased our reach, which means we have been successful in persuading more people to sample our uniquely varied programme."

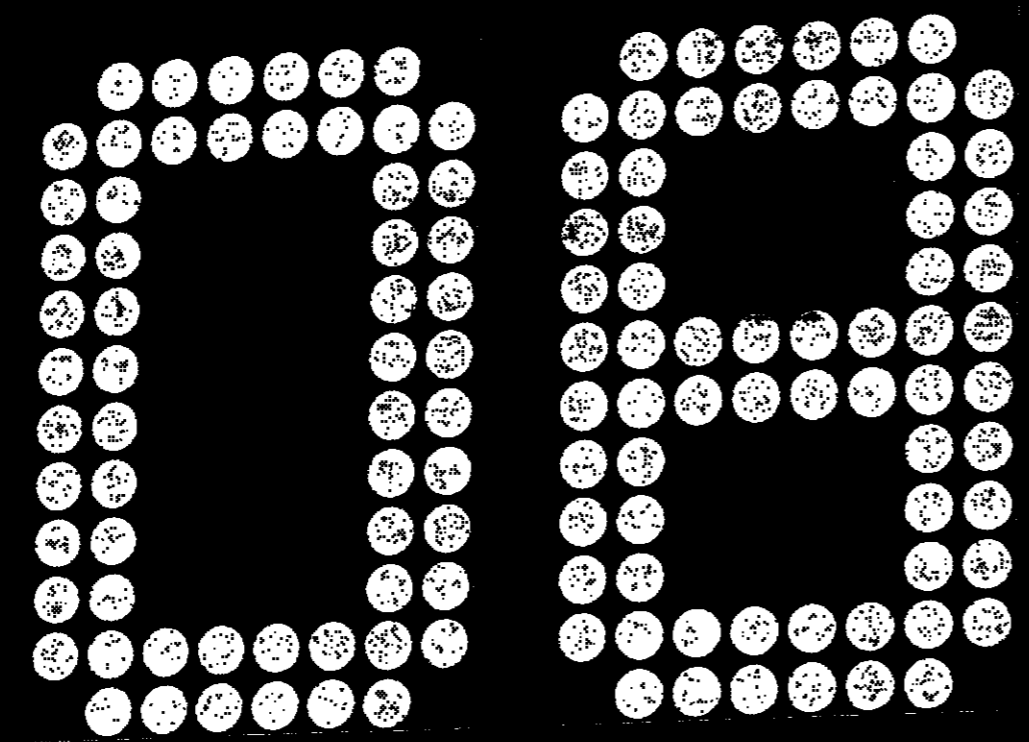
According to Radio 4 researchers, 20 per cent more listeners are tuning into *Farming Today* at the earlier time of 5.30am. Although the new *Archers* lunchtime slot at 2pm has gained 30 per cent more listeners, the old slot between 1.30 and 2pm, which now features quiz shows, has lost 20 per cent.

Another problem area is Sunday mornings, where schedulers have moved the slot for the traditional church service from 9.30 to 8.05. Although 200,000 more people now listen to the service, other listeners who used to tune into *Sunday* have switched off.

Woman's Hour has increased its audience, and afternoon drama programmes have proved a success with listeners, with 15 per cent more people tuning in.



08 codes are changing...
it's part of the **big number.**



For some time now, telephone numbers that begin with 08 have had many different, and sometimes confusing, functions. For instance, a number that starts with 08 could be for a mobile, a premium rate service or a freephone number. Three very different numbers and three potentially different costs. As part of the Big Number change, we want to simplify things. From now on all *new* numbers beginning with 08 will be for special rate services only. What are special rate services? Quite simply they are a set of predetermined cost gradings for a call. And there are three of them. Free, Local and National.

FREE. Free calls will begin with 080, just as many do now. For instance, 0800 is widely recognised as a freephone number. And it will continue as such. But due to increasing demand there is now a second, new freephone prefix, 0808. In fact our helpline number (0808 22 4 2000) uses this prefix. So keep an eye out for numbers that begin 080. They're free to call.

LOCAL RATE. All calls charged at Local rates will, in time, begin with 084. The 0845 code is such a number and it is already being used by businesses who want to make themselves 'only a local call away'. So make a note. 084 equals local rate.

NATIONAL RATE. Calls charged at National rate will begin with 087. 0870 is such a number. Numbers that start with these codes are easy to reach, no matter where you call from. So keep an eye out for them.

These changes won't happen overnight. In fact for some time the old 08 codes will co-exist with the new ones. But in time, by about 2001, the changeover will be complete.

If you want to know more about these changes or any of the changes to our telephone numbering system please call our *new* Freephone number on 0808 22 4 2000 or visit our website at www.numberchange.org

These changes affect all of us. They benefit all of us. And they come from all of us.

LYNAM WILL PLAY FOR RADIO TOO

THE smoothest all-rounder in television sport is to turn disc jockey on Radio 2. Des Lynam, who is 56 next month, joked: "I am getting pretty enough for radio."

His role as BBC TV's top sports anchorman will continue, but he will also have a radio show on Friday evenings, featuring music and chat with guests who may or may not be linked to sport. He is replacing John Dunn, who retires at the end of September. The veteran DJ Johnnie Walker will fill the slot from Monday to Thursday.

Lynam, whose broadcasting career began in local radio, said: "Radio is my first love, this is where I started. Jim Murn, who runs Radio 2, has asked to know in television and I have great admiration for his attitude in the business. He made me an offer. I couldn't refuse. He promised me some money as well."

The BBC has hung on to



Lynam: "pretty enough for radio", he joked

Lynam, despite failing to win five Premiership football and losing other sports to Sky and ITV.

He is the top anchorman representing Match of the Day and all big sport events from the Olympics to Wimbledon. He recently covered the World Cup and has hosted the European Athletic Championships from Budapest.

Radio 2 page 46

How restaurant served nuclear war effort

By TIM JONES

HOTELS, a school and a restaurant in Wales would have been taken over to maintain the nation's war effort after a nuclear strike on Britain.

They would have been requisitioned as part of a plan to divide the country into 12 areas controlled by regional commissioners. Secret global war panel papers for 1963, released yesterday by the Public Record Office in Kew, southwest London, disclose that the Cabinet-rank commissioners would have had wide powers and would have become autonomous if central government had collapsed.

Most of the regional seats of governments and their support headquarters (SHQs) would have been based in military barracks or public buildings. But in Blackpool, the Imperial Hotel would have been an SHQ for the north west command based at Preston.

In Wales, to be controlled from the Brecon Barracks, the SHQ was to have been the Lansdown Restaurant in the town. The Leys School in Cambridge was earmarked to play a supporting role for the eastern region, and residents at the Marine Hotel at Salcombe Regis in Devon would have been evacuated to make way for staff providing back-up for the south western region at Kingsbridge, Devon.

Other regional commissioners would have been based at Catterick Camp, North Yorkshire; York; Nottingham, Walsleyhead or Reading, Wolverley, near Kidderminster, and at Dover Castle. Scotland was to have regional commissioners based in Edinburgh, East Kilbride, and Anstruther in Fife. Armagh would have been the centre for Northern Ireland.

In a 1956 paper, chiefs of staff assumed that in a first wave night attack, Britain could be hit by up to 200 Nagasaki-sized bombs during the first exchange of a nuclear war. The report envisages heavy casualties, large numbers of homeless people, communications destroyed, and London rendered impractical as a seat of government.

Half of Britain's medium-sized bombers would be destroyed and 60 per cent of the nation's nuclear bombs put out of action. On the first day of the attack, it says, some RAF reservists for overseas commands might be unable to reach their units because of the attack and "may well be at a loose end".

In spite of Britain being hit by 200 atomic bombs in the scenario, planners believed that a quarter of the rail network would have survived and be restored to half capacity within four weeks.

In a 1957 paper, the Admiralty envisages setting up its own postal service at a cost of £12,000. The report says the GPO accepted that it could not guarantee deliveries during and immediately after a nuclear attack.

Admiralty chiefs in the late 1950s discovered that they had nothing in the armoury to counter a perceived dangerous new threat to Britain's security - Russian nuclear-powered submarines - and devised a scheme to drop a lightweight atomic bomb from a helicopter.

The idea was put forward even though there was no proof at that stage that the Soviet Union's Red fleet had built a nuclear-powered submarine, according to files released by the Public Record Office. However, the United States had developed *USS Nautilus*, the world's first nuclear submarine, and the Admiralty thought the Russians would not be far behind. In 1957, the first time *USS Nautilus* exercised with the Royal Navy, it theoretically "killed" a British carrier group, including submarines and escort warships, with impunity, lurking at great depths and avoiding every attempt at detection.

Old slate

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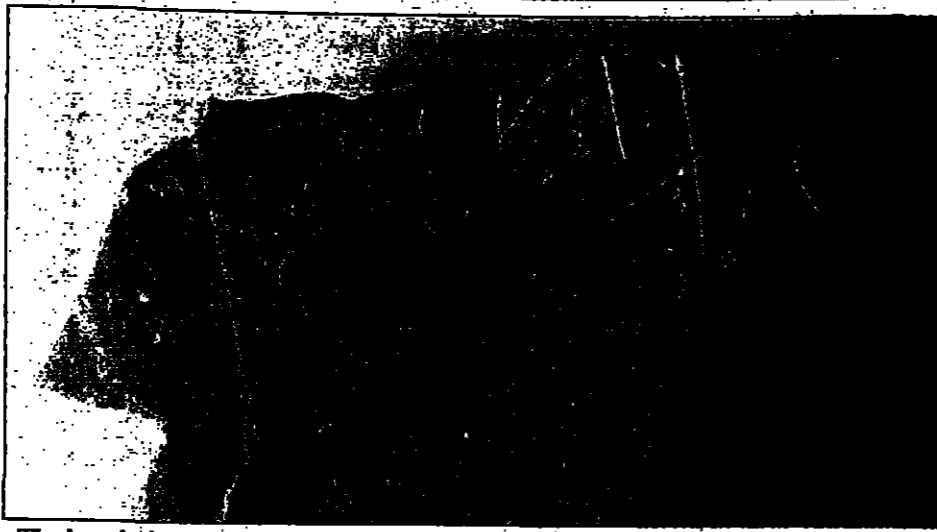
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Old slate brings King Arthur back to life

Discovery at Tintagel may be proof that the monarch of myth is real after all, writes Simon de Bruxelles



The inscription on the slate, seen clearly below, could be first solid evidence of Arthur.

IT WAS a broken piece of slate, but for the archaeologists who showed it off yesterday it was the most precious object they had ever held.

The all-but-illegible inscription scratched on it is the first tangible evidence that King Arthur may have been a man and not just a myth. The greenish-grey stone was found in the ruins of Tintagel Castle on the north coast of Cornwall, long reputed to have been the location of Camelot where Arthur once held his court.

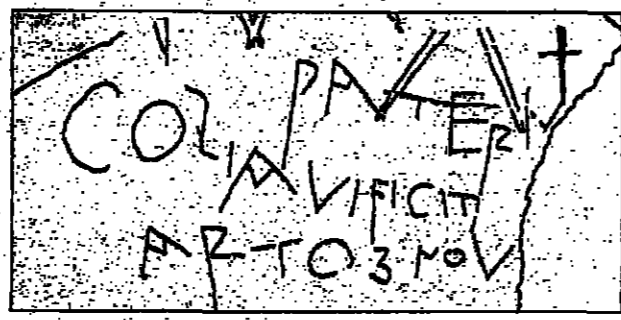
Incised with a knife in 6th-century script is the Latin inscription *Pater Coliavificit Artognou*, which translates as 'Artognou, father of a descendant of Coll, has made this'.

The letters are thin and shaky but the stone is the first secular inscription ever found at a site from the Dark Ages in this country. It would probably have been displayed on a building erected by an educated nobleman called Artognou, probably pronounced Arthnou.

The name is close enough to Arthur to refer to the legendary warrior king. Geoffrey Wainwright, chief archaeologist with English Heritage, said yesterday. Dr Wainwright, 61, described the stone as the find of a lifetime.

He said: "Tintagel has presented us with evidence of a court of the Arthurian period, with all buildings, high status finds and the name of a person, Arthnou."

"Arthnou was here, that is his name on a piece of stone. It



is where myth meets history. It has illuminated the period known as the Dark Ages.

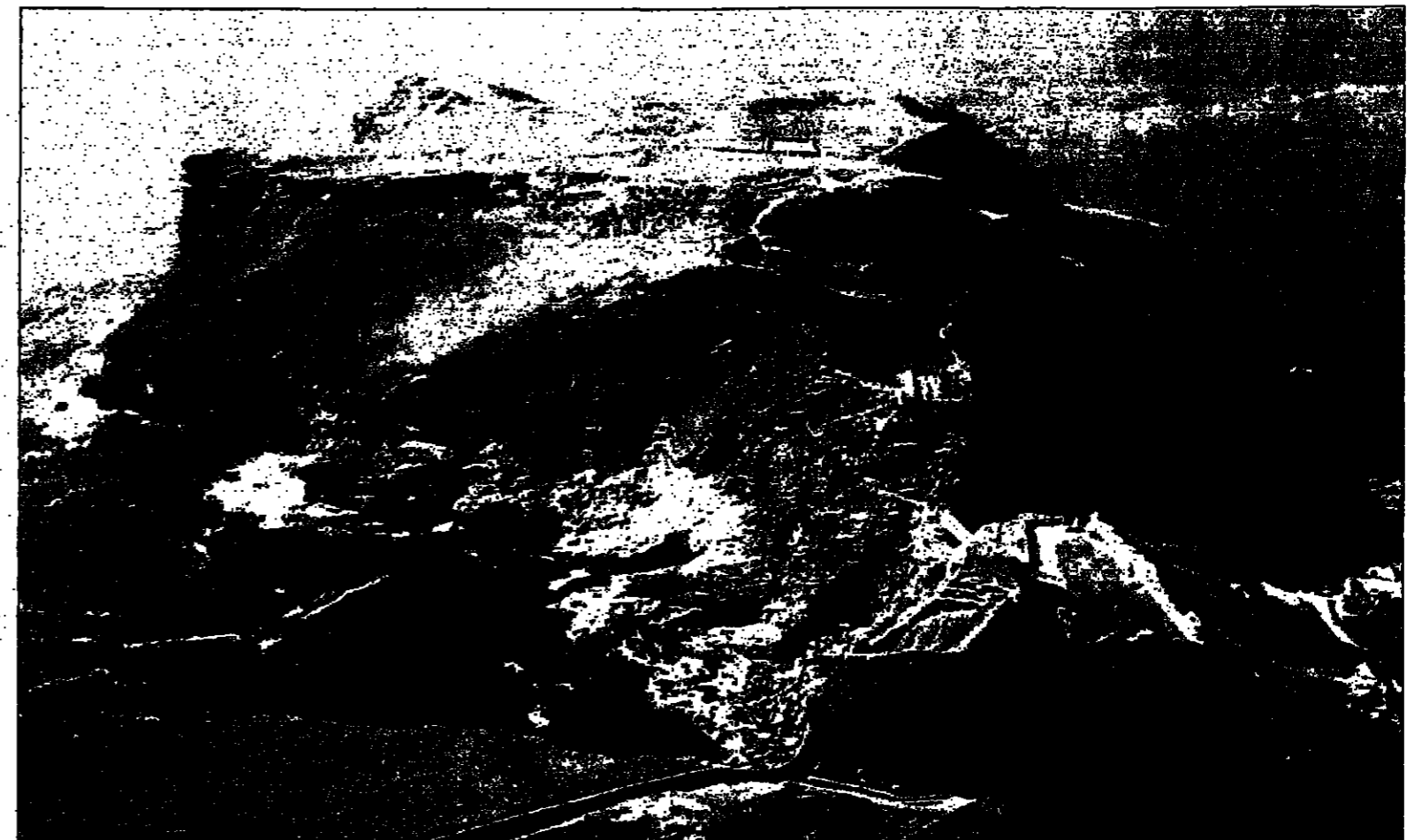
The inscribed slate was found during re-excavation of a site on the east side of the rocky peninsula last dug in the 1930s. It was found under layers of broken pottery and glass which had not been disturbed since the late 6th or 7th centuries.

Many of the shards are from wine and oil pots from the Mediterranean, proving that Tintagel, now a ruined castle on a rocky promontory, was once a site of considerable importance.

The real Arthur would have been very different from the chivalrous king of legend. Excalibur, Queen Guinevere and the Knights of the Round Table were all embellishments by later chroniclers such as Geoffrey de Monmouth in 1135, the 11th-century Christian de Troyes and, most famously, Sir Thomas Malory with his *Le Morte D'Arthur*, published in 1485.

Arthur the Briton would have a fearsome warrior chief-

tain who spoke Latin, enjoyed fine wines, olive oil and other imported delicacies. Dr Wainwright said: "I see him as a tough little Celt. Because he was very good at fighting he was given command of a number of Celtic war bands. He was killed at the battle of Camlann in 510BC, but we



Tintagel Castle has long been associated with Arthur. The chronicler Geoffrey of Monmouth said that Merlin found Arthur as a baby here

don't know where that was." There was delight that rival claims to have been the site of the Round Table appear to have been trumped. At least half dozen other contenders in Cornwall alone. Others are Bamburgh and Alnwick in Northumberland, the Mote of Mark in Scotland, St Govan's

Head and Dinas Powys in South Wales, Glastonbury and the prehistoric hill fort of South Cadbury in Somerset.

In the Great Halls of King Arthur in Tintagel, a folly built in the 1920s by an eccentric custard millionaire, Roger Toy, custodian of the tourist attraction, said: "Any

archaeological find which links Arthur to Tintagel would have been good news, but to actually find something bearing his name is amazing."

The economy of the village, half a mile from the castle, is based almost entirely on its Arthurian links, with Excalibur burgers in the King Arthur's

Arms and magic amulets from Merlin's Cave crystal centre.

The 35cm by 20cm stone was found on July 4 by a team of diggers led by Christopher Morris, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Glasgow, who has been digging at Tintagel for eight years. The slate also bears part of an even

earlier fragmentary inscription suggesting that it may have been reused several times.

He said: "It was originally part of a building which fell down not long after it was built and was re-used as a drain cover. It could have been the 6th-century equivalent of a Blue Plaque. The inscription is the first evidence we have that the skills of reading and writing were handed down in a non-religious context and that Arthnou was a person of considerable status."

Professor Morris is unconvinced by the possible link to Arthurian legend but said that even if there was not one the stone was still priceless.

He said: "Because of the script and the archaeological context in which it was found we can be sure it is an early sixth century object. But I don't think this necessarily tells us anything about Arthur because Arthur is a figure who first enters the historical domain in the 12th century."

Leading article, page 21

THE MANY FACES OF HIS MYTHICAL MAJESTY



King Arthur has been seen across Europe in many guises: in 1163 in the search for the Holy Grail in the San Maria Annuciata Cathedral in Italy; helmeted and mustached in a 16th-century tomb in Innsbruck and, less respectfully, as "Ye Good King Arthur" in cartoons



Low restaurant served nuclear war effort

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Supermarkets stage revolt on fashion prices

Paul Wilkinson on how stores made their point with Calvin Klein and Versace bargains near groceries

IT WAS a day for some of the great names of fashion: Calvin Klein, Versace, Christian Lacroix, Tesco and Asda. The two British supermarket chains seized a chance yesterday to bring the designer labels down a peg or two, far from the luxury stores of London or Paris, by selling them cheap at selected sites such as Wakefield, West Yorkshire, and Pitsea, Essex. Asda even sent staff in top hats and tailcoats to the Leeds branch of Harvey Nichols, to lure potential customers away by coach to see their prices in Wakefield, where £150 Versace bags were selling for

£99.99, and silk scarves by Yves Saint Laurent, Nina Ricci and Mantero, normally priced £89 to £59, were £29.99. The chance of a perfect publicity stunt was set up last month by a European ruling against stores buying designer products on the so-called "grey market" of unauthorised channels outside Europe, then selling them cheaply to undercut high-street prices. The judgment was a perfect advertisement for the stores' prices, so they decided to go further. Tesco announced that it would sell cut-price "grey market" designer items permanently at two designated

stores, in Pitsea and in New Malden, Surrey. Products would include Levi 501 jeans, sportswear and electrical goods as well as food. The chain is also expanding its range of Premiership football kits. The stores say that they are operating in the interests of consumers, who are being asked to pay too much by manufacturers who use a process of selective distribution to maintain high prices at chosen outlets. They argue that they have tried to stock the goods in the normal manner but have been refused because such labels do not want their product sold next to shelves of baked beans. David Sawdy, corporate affairs manager of Tesco, was particularly scornful of prices for official football strips. He said: "How can a piece of red nylon stitched together cost £45? It's a complete rip-off." Tesco is offering 25 per cent off, having bought £1 million worth of the new Manchester United and Liverpool kits from wholesalers and retailers who have over-ordered. Mr Sawdy said: "About half our supplies of this gear have come from outside Europe.



Bargain hunters in Wakefield. One said: "I think snobby people would still turn up their noses at coming here"

The makers could sue us, but we are going to carry on selling the designer goods at a more reasonable price for as long as we can." Reebok, maker of the Liverpool kit, said it would investigate whether the Tesco product was authentic before deciding what action to take. Asda admitted that only one item on sale at its Wakefield store was truly "grey market", from outside the European Union. This was CK One fragrance, made by the Anglo-Dutch giant Unilever, and brought into Britain from the United States. The perfume usually sells for £29, but it is

on sale at Asda for £25.99. Unilever would not comment on whether any action would be brought against Asda, which is a main market for many of its household goods. A confrontation is unlikely. About 25 customers from outside Harvey Nichols in Leeds were transported to Asda in a 1988 coach, to examine the grey-market stall located next to a typical Asda display offering half-price bedding and bathroom sets. "I've been in Harvey Nichols but I've never been able to afford anything." Justin King, Asda's deputy trading director, insisted that

the sales were legal, as it was up to the manufacturers to take out any injunctions. "We are buying from people who are not the official distributors," he said. "We get it from people who have bought too much stock or have over-ordered for some reason. We feel it is unfair that they won't let us sell the products officially. It is a system that lets them keep the prices up. We bought some Calvin Klein fragrances in the States, had them flown over, paid taxes on them and still we have a profit margin, even though we are selling it 20 per cent cheaper than normal."

Analys. Jazz, Kourous, Nino Cerruti and Paco Rabanne had their usual prices slashed by half. Dave Flannery, 42, said: "I saw the bus and decided to have a look. I bought a Timberland watch for £59 after I got one last month for over £100. I wish I had known about this then." Caroline Hatcher, 19, a student in Ripon, said: "I think snobby people would still turn up their noses at coming here. I have been in Harvey Nichols but I've never been able to afford anything."



A coach brings shoppers from Harvey Nichols to Asda

NEWS IN BRIEF

Actor bailed on drug claims

Craig Charles, the comedy actor, has been interviewed by police in connection with drug allegations. Charles, 34, went to a London police station voluntarily. Neil Reading, his agent, said yesterday. The interview was to discuss allegations published in the *News of the World* on May 31. The star of BBC's *Red Dwarf* was not charged. A spokeswoman for Scotland Yard said: "I can confirm that a 34-year-old man was arrested on August 3 on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs, namely cocaine and Ecstasy. The man was arrested when he attended Kennington Police Station by appointment. He was later bailed to a date later this month pending further inquiries."

MP for trial

Fiona Jones, the Labour MP for Newark, and Desmond Wicher, her election agent, were committed for trial at Nottingham Crown Court over allegations that they made a false declaration of general election expenses. Ms Jones, 41, and Mr Wicher, 73, were granted bail during a four-minute hearing at the city's magistrates' court.

Mayor's funeral

Hundreds of mourners gathered for the funeral of a mayor killed when a flying boat crashed in the Solent during a VIP trip. Michael Andrews, 51, Mayor of Southampton, was buried with full civic honours in the city. Peter Shave, 43, an airline worker, also died in last week's crash. The aircraft was carrying 14 councillors and four crew.

Bowler banned

Waqar Younis, the Pakistan and Glamorgan fast bowler, was banned from driving for a year for being over the legal alcohol limit when he was stopped for speeding. Cardiff magistrates, who also fined him £300, were told that he did not normally drink because he was a Muslim, but had been depressed because of long-term injury.

Touch and go

A pilot made an emergency landing on a beach at Swansea Bay after running low on fuel. Surprised onlookers watched him walk to the nearest petrol station, where he filled some cans, before he and his passenger took off for West Wales. South Wales Police said they wanted to trace the pilot, who spoke with an Irish accent.

Gloss wears off

A man's attempt to paint his friend's house in yellow and pink candy-stripes while he was away backfired when he painted the house next door instead. Frank Kemp, of Ace Signs in North Shobury, Essex, had intended to play a practical joke on John Rushman. The victim, Dennis Bailey, 41, said he did not think it was funny at all.

CORRECTION

A report (July 31) of Rupert Allason's successful legal action against the *Daily Mirror* quoted Mr Justice Popplewell as saying that Mr Allason's claim that he had lost a book contract because of an article in the paper was "totally unconvincing". The judge was in fact referring to a submission made by counsel for the *Daily Mirror*.

Universities eye record passes in Scots exams

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE first evidence of the impact of university tuition fees will emerge today as teenagers in Scotland are notified of record pass-rates in the first public examination results of the summer.

The proportion of top-grade passes has risen in both Standards and Highers, which are taken in most Scottish schools. But some universities, particularly those outside the Glasgow and Edinburgh region, will have more vacancies available when the "clearing" process begins north of the border. Admissions officers said that more students appeared to be intending to study at home in an attempt to save money to counter the effects of £1,000-a-year tuition fees, which will be levied for the first time this year. Aberdeen University, for example, expects to have more than 400 vacancies, compared with fewer than 300 last summer. Scottish students taking four-year degrees in Scotland will be spared one year of fees, but some institutions have still been hit by the change. Applications from mature students have dropped throughout Britain.

Christine Kay, the head of admissions at Aberdeen, said: "We have certainly noticed a difference this year, and there will be vacancies across the board. Universities in Glasgow and Edinburgh do not seem to be doing badly, but we are a very long way from the rest of the UK and the fees seem to have persuaded many students to stay close to home." The Scottish universities were still notifying clearing

hedges of their vacancies yesterday, but the overall number of places still to be filled is around 3,000, expected to be similar to last year.

Abertay Dundee University has suffered one of the sharpest declines in applications in Britain, but is still hoping to maintain last year's recruitment level. Graham Wright, the university's head of information, said: "Most of our students are local and we estimate that up to a quarter will not have to pay fees, so we are reasonably confident that we will not be hit too hard."

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, congratulated the pupils and teachers on the rising pass rate, but added: "Standards must continue to rise if Scotland is to become a knowledge-based society and regain its position as a world leader in education." Almost three million papers in 44 different subjects — including an exam in Urdu for the first time — were taken in schools across Scotland this year. While fewer students sat the all-important Higher examinations this year, pass appeal statistics show the pass rate rising to 69 per cent. Ron Tack, chief executive of the Scottish Qualifications Authority, which issues the results, said rigorous quality controls had been applied to ensure this year's Highers were no easier nor more difficult than in previous years. "The increase in the percentage of A passes this year, albeit slight, can be put down to hard work on the part of the candidates and teaching staff."

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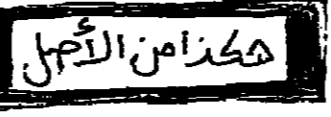
Financial crisis faces small private schools

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

SMALL independent schools are struggling to survive and many will have to consider amalgamation if they are to avoid closure, accountants have concluded in a rare national comparison of the sector's finances. Large independent schools were found to be raising significant sums from other sources, such as tack shops and running residential courses during the holidays. But there was little potential in this area for most small schools. At least five independent schools have closed this summer, all of them small. Last year, for the first time since 1994, there were more closures than new foundations. A survey by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) has

schools in surprisingly good financial health, many profiting from gains in the stock market and supplementing fee income with new trading activity. But the report warns of more failures among small schools unless economies are made. More than 90 independent schools closed in 1997, almost twice as many as in the previous year. They have been joined this summer by Aymestrey School, in Worcester; Quantock School, near Bridgwater, Somerset; Queens Park School, in Oswestry, Shropshire; North Leeds Preparatory School; and St Clotilde's School, in Lechlade, Gloucestershire. The PWC report confirmed its detailed analysis to 79 schools with more than 600

Bristol-based partner who carried out the study, also included 32 smaller schools in the south-west of England for added comparison. Many of the small schools were found to be in financial difficulty. While their prosperous counterparts were able to raise fees above the rate of inflation and make money from investments, they were limited to only 1.4 per cent growth in fee income. "We believe such schools may need to merge with larger schools in order to remain viable," Mr Baines said. The survey said schools with fewer than 500 pupils were most vulnerable to the loss of assisted places and least likely to have substantial endowments.



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THE CHANGING FACE OF FOOTBALL

Interpreters' fees get lost in the translation

Linguists who aid Premiership recruits suffer a poor deal, reports Daniel McGrory

FOOTBALL club chairmen may be recklessly indulging the pay packets of their foreign imports, but this generosity does not extend to the growing ranks of interpreters they have on their payroll.

Every club in the Premiership has hired linguists to help overseas recruits to mix with their team-mates, understand the manager and cope with living in Britain. Most of these interpreters are volunteers who do not quibble about the modest salary that goes with the job.

One woman fan who was asked to be a minder for an Italian international was paid £500 a week; in the same period, the player earned £20,000. She had to assist in training, conduct his press interviews, deal with sponsors, help his family to settle in their new home and find a nanny for his daughter. She also had to accompany the family on shopping trips and nights out. "I got for an 80-hour week what he earned in the time it took him to eat his meal," she said.

Like most interpreters, she was anxious to protect her identity. "If the club finds out I have said anything I would be fired. I love football and my local team, so I was desperate to do this job. Money was not the object."

The players' union, the Professional Footballers' Association, says that interpreters' pay is a matter of its concern. But clubs admit that they have no shortage of volunteers, although none would say what they pay their linguists, claiming that it was confidential.

One Newcastle United executive said: "When fans read in the papers that we are about to sign a foreigner, we are inundated with letters from those who speak that language offering their services."

The club, which has several imports, says it uses these volunteers or turns to the city's university for an interpreter. The acquired wisdom among clubs is not to buy just one player from any one country. "They should be like goldfish. Get at least two to keep each other company," the Newcastle spokesman said.

At Newcastle, the goalkeeper Lionel Perez interprets for the other two French recruits.



Chelsea's World Cup-winning defender Marcel Desailly speaks three languages

The club had to hire a local interpreter to care for the Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla, who spoke hardly any English. "You need interpreters on a daily basis, but also, when we travel, they need to sort all the visa and passport problems as well as tax, employment documents and a thousand other things."

Many of the new recruits insist as part of their contract on bringing their own interpreter. When Fabrizio Ravanelli went to Middlesbrough he had his agent, Pino Paliari, act as interpreter. He also had a cousin who had studied on

Tesside and offered to help. The cousin has been kept on by the club to interpret for two other Italians, Gianluca Festa and Marco Branca. A Portuguese housewife was hired to interpret for the Brazilians Juninho and Emerson.

Derby County accommodates all its imports on the same housing estate but their Croatian captain, Igor Stimac, speaks five languages: English, Italian, French, Spanish and Serbo-Croat.

Crystal Palace says it may soon have to find someone fluent in Cantonese, because the club is interested in sign-

ing two Chinese internationals. A club spokesman admitted that since their intentions were leaked there have been a number of waiters working in Chinese restaurants in South London volunteering their services.

Clubs who hire managers from overseas often find that they come with impressive linguistic gifts. Roud Gullit, who was at Chelsea, speaks five languages. Arsenal's Arsene Wenger also speaks five, including Japanese and French, and he solved the need for interpreters by signing four French players. He did, though, order them to speak only English when bilingual relations in the dressing room became strained.

By contrast, few English players that have gone abroad have shown any aptitude to learn the language. Observers say those who take language lessons, such as Gary Lineker, Liam Brady and David Platt, performed more creditably on the field than the likes of Ian Rush and Paul Gascoigne, who failed to grasp more than the ability to order drinks.

NO NEED FOR EXTRA TRAINING

Arsene Wenger, Arsenal coach: English, French, Italian, Spanish and Japanese. He also has a PhD in economics. Roud Gullit, former Chelsea coach: English, Dutch, French, Italian and German. Igor Stimac, Derby County captain: English, Serbo-Croat, Italian, French and Spanish. Brian Laudrup, Chelsea: English, Danish and Italian. Slaven Bilic, Everton: English, Serbo-Croat and German. Marcel Desailly, Chelsea: English, French and Italian.

Increase in fans held for serious violent crimes

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

ARRESTS for serious violent football-related offences increased by up to 30 per cent last season, according to official figures yesterday. The number of people detained for racial or indecent chanting at domestic games tripled.

Barnsley topped the list for arrests for assault, with 26 people detained, almost a quarter of all such arrests at Premiership and Football League games. Aston Villa had the most arrests for assault, with 22 detained, 20 more than any other club. Clubs with the highest number of people detained for drink-related crimes were Sunderland with 89, Chelsea 55 and Leeds 52.

The rise in people arrested for serious violent offences was contained in figures published for England and Wales by the National Criminal Intelligence Service, showing a drop in arrests for all offences from 3,577 to 3,307.

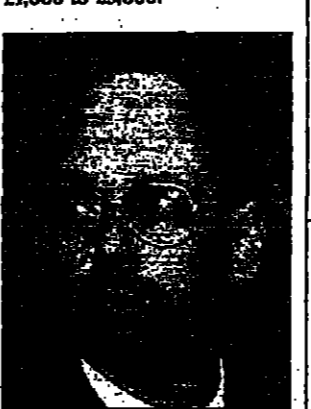
Overall the number of people arrested for affray rose from 19 to 65 between the 1996-97 and 1997-98 seasons; violent disorder from 23 to 52; running on the pitch from 177 to 243; assault from 19 to 110; and racial and/or indecent chanting from 11 to 31.

916 arrests, followed by 66 from Scotland, 17 each from The Netherlands and France, 15 from Germany and ten from Croatia.

Last night Bryan Drew, of the National Criminal Intelligence Service, said that the figures showed that football hooliganism at home continued to decline. He expressed concern, however, that half the arrests took place outside grounds, and at the rise in violent offences.

"The numbers remain comparatively small, but it is this hard core that causes a disproportionate amount of misery and still needs to be eradicated," he said.

The figures were released as the courts were given tougher powers to deal with hooligans. The maximum punishment for breaching a restriction order requiring an offender to report to police at the time of a game rises from one to six months or from £1,000 to £5,000.



Drew said minority cause most trouble

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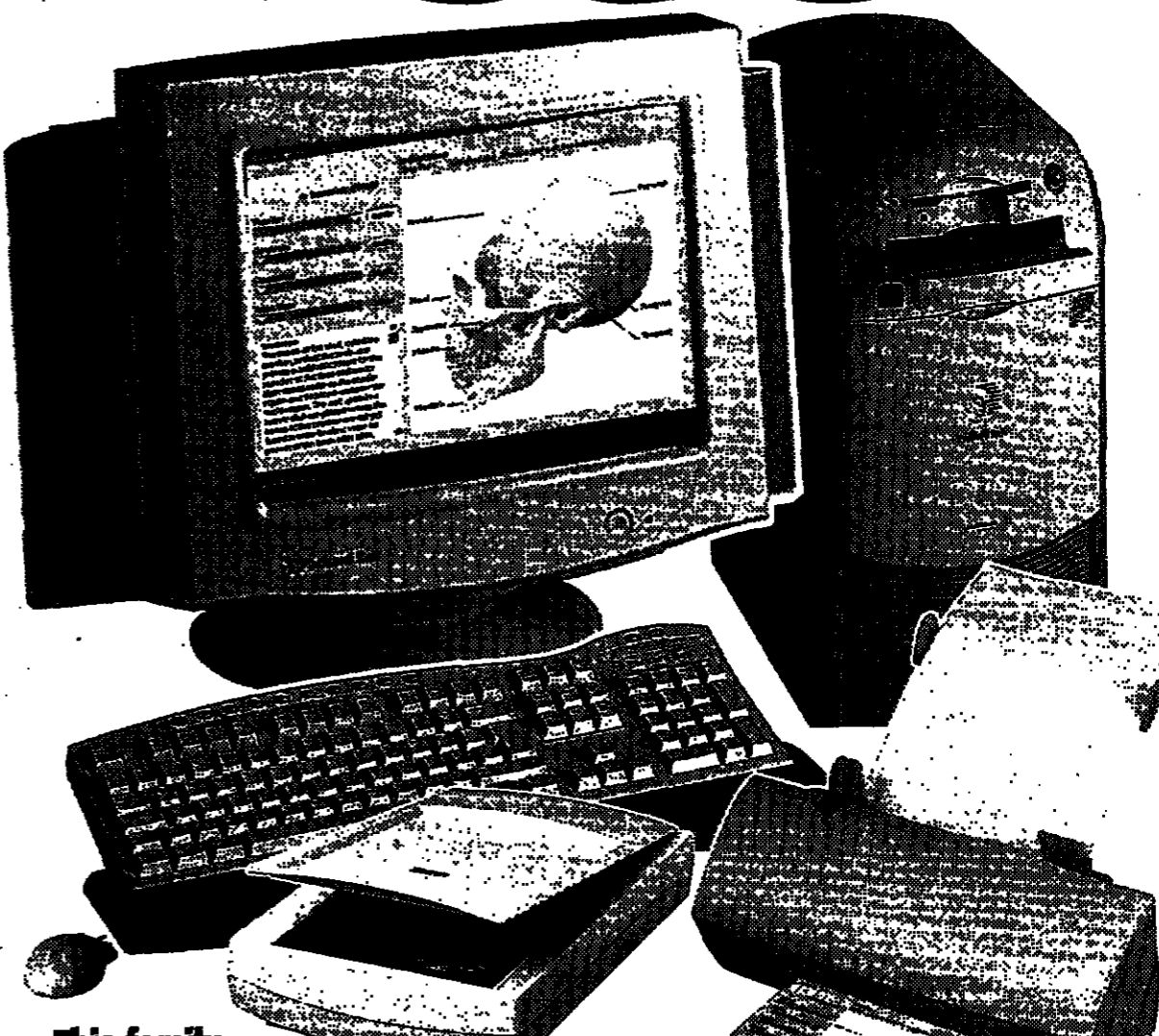
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Babies born near toxic waste sites risk birth defects

BABIES born within two miles of landfill sites where hazardous waste is dumped are at serious risk of birth defects, researchers from five European countries have discovered.

Deformities and illnesses such as spina bifida, hole in the heart and faulty blood systems have all been noted in the study of children born to mothers who lived near 21 industrial landfill sites in Britain, Belgium, France, Denmark and Italy.

There is no way of knowing which sites in Britain might be dangerous, even though strict licensing of the kinds of waste allowed to be dumped has been in place for 20 years. There are 400 licensed hazardous waste sites out of 2,000 landfill tips. However, a further 6,000 sites were in use up to 20 years ago, but have since closed and there is no accurate record of what they contain.

The Health Department has just set up a working party to investigate potential links between hazardous waste and birth deformities. The new research, published today in *The Lancet*, shows how urgent this is.

The study, co-ordinated by Helen Dolk, from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, found that the further away from a landfill site a pregnant woman lived,

Study shows abnormalities a third higher within two-mile radius, reports Ian Murray

was a significantly overall increased risk of neural-tube defects, malformations of the cardiac septa (hole-in-the-heart), and malformations of the great arteries and veins in residents near the landfill sites in our study.

The researchers say further research is needed to be sure of the link between hazardous waste and birth deformities. "We obviously don't know yet whether landfill sites are causing this increase and the main missing link is that we have no idea to what extent people are exposed to toxic chemicals."

At present, permission to open a landfill site has to be granted by a local authority. The Environment Agency will then license contractors to dump a percentage of hazardous waste, depending on the toxicity of the waste and the security of the site.

According to Friends of the Earth, the amount of toxic waste in Britain grew by over a quarter between 1986 and 1994, with nearly one million tonnes now deposited annually in landfills. Mike Childs, the group's senior waste campaigner, said: "There are thousands of landfill sites around the country and no one has a clue what toxic chemicals are dumped into them. The Government must urgently conduct detailed health studies."



Sue Chorley with husband, Peter, son Eden and new baby Ellis. All the family benefited from home birth, she says

Women choose home comforts

AN INCREASING number of women are choosing to have their babies at home. But research shows that, while home births for those with low-risk pregnancies compare favourably with hospital births, those with high-risk pregnancies would be better off in hospital.

A study in the *British Medical Journal* reports that the high risks some mothers-to-be are prepared to take at home include having twins or a breech delivery, both of which are normally known about in advance.

Britain has one of the safest rates of home delivery in the world. The fatality

rate for babies born at home in this country is about one in 1,000, compared to seven in 1,000 in Australia, two in 1,000 in the United States and three in 1,000 in The Netherlands.

The researchers, from Flinders University, South Australia, say that the high rate there is because too many mothers with high-risk pregnancies insist on a home birth. The National Childbirth Trust says that this is not a problem in Britain, where mothers are more strictly monitored during pregnancy and where it is usually easier to get them into hospital if things start to go wrong.

Home births are booming in Britain,

although the total remains a tiny proportion of the 643,000 confinements a year. The number almost tripled from 4,665 in 1994 to 13,460 last year, while almost 630,000 chose to go into hospital. Only about 620 babies were born in ambulances, taxis or somewhere other than a hospital or home.

Although 7 per cent of mothers initially say they would prefer to have their babies at home, only about 2 per cent do so. All women having a first baby are advised to go into hospital and, if there is any possibility of a complication, they are told not to run the risk of having the child at home.

Toast to a safe and speedy delivery

By ALEXANDRA FRESAN SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

FOR Sue Chorley, the decision to have her baby at home was an easy one. "Hospitals are for sick people. They make me anxious and I wanted to be relaxed when I had my baby," she said.

Ms Chorley, 35, a textile design director, said she had no worries about the safety of giving birth to her daughter, Ellis, without the back-up of hospital staff and equipment. "My view was that everything had been fine during the pregnancy. Why should I suddenly take the view that something could go wrong?"

"We called the midwife at 1.30am and she arrived at 2.10. She didn't have any gas and air with her for pain relief, so I had to manage without. As the baby was born at 3.20, I didn't have long to wait."

Her first child, a boy called Eden, now two, was also born at home, although this was because he arrived at the end of a brief labour before she could get to hospital.

The benefits of having her baby at home in Kennington, South London, were huge, Ms Chorley said. Not only was Ellis born into a tranquil environment, but she was able to meet her brother in a setting that made him feel safe.

Both parents benefited too. "At 4.30am we opened a bottle of champagne. I can't imagine them allowing you to do that in hospital," Ms Chorley said.

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Heart-baby row to be TV drama

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE scandal of a hospital's failed heart operations on babies is to be made into a television drama. A film production company is in talks with Channel 4 about a 90-minute drama based on the events Bristol Royal Infirmary, in which 29 children died.

A script is now being written for the film, which could be in production later this year. The makers say that they hope to cover events not dealt with by a General Medical Council inquiry that found three doctors guilty of serious professional misconduct. The script is being prepared by Bristol-based HITV, part of the United Productions company.

The GMC inquiry investigated 53 operations on babies at the hospital over seven years to 1995; 29 of the patients died and four others were left brain-injured. James Wishart, a surgeon, and John Roylance, the former chief executive, were ordered to be struck off.

Another surgeon, Janardan Dhasmana, was banned from operating on children for three years. A public inquiry has since been ordered by the Government.

Tom Archer, a spokesman for United Productions, said: "The children's heart surgery scandal is such an important event that we have always believed a dramatisation would be the most effective way of conveying the scale and significance."

Laurence Vick, of the Exeter solicitors Tozers, who are handling medical negligence cases for most of the affected families, said: "I cannot see there would be any objection to the film from the parents, so long as it deals with the issues seriously, sensitively and in depth. The parents want this kind of tragedy never to happen again."

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Liberal bishop 'felt lynched' in gays debate

Head of Church in Scotland accuses Carey of failing to give adequate leadership, reports Ruth Gledhill

A LEADING liberal bishop in the Anglican Church reacted angrily yesterday to the decision by the Lambeth Conference to adopt a strongly conservative line on homosexuality. He claimed that American conservatives had effectively bought the African vote.

The Right Rev Richard Holloway, Bishop of Edinburgh and head of the Anglican Church in Scotland, described the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, as "pathetic" and accused him of failing to give adequate leadership.

He said the Church was proceeding down the path to fundamentalism and that it was in danger of losing its traditional Anglican identity. This fundamentalism was attractive in the same way that "fascism was attractive".

Insiders at the conference claimed that, had the resolution not gone their way, African bishops were planning to walk out en masse in a joint protest against liberalism.

The backlash against the conservatives came after liberal bishops were routed in



Holloway fears for new fundamentalism

ing is not so much the same sex angle, it is the sense of a new prevailing attitude to scriptural interpretation which I do not recognise as Anglican."

Bishop Holloway said he had felt isolated throughout the conference by a new fundamentalism that had come across not just in the homosexuality debate, but was also expressed in worship, where there had been repeated sermons from conservative evangelicals.

"I felt lynched in that debate," he said. "At this conference there are lots of young gay people around, helping to serve the bishops. They are feeling broken-hearted and wondering if they have a place in this family. It is very difficult to be a lesbian and gay Christian. It takes enormous heroism."

He said the American conservatives, while not handing over dollar bills to the Africans to persuade them to take a particular line, had laid on facilities and thrown barbecue parties at the conference in a bid to win them over. "These



Despite the sunshine at Canterbury, the atmosphere has turned sour after the conservatives' victory in the debate on homosexuality

Americans have lost the battle in their own, episcopal church so they have hired a proxy army," he said. "This stuff will not affect us in our province of Scotland, but it will cheer those who are standing against liberalism."

He spoke as the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement published a survey of bishops' views at the conference. Of the 739 bishops canvassed, about 10 per cent responded to the

survey: half were conservative or evangelical and half liberal. More than half those surveyed opposed the blessing of same-sex relationships, and nearly all opposed discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. However, one in ten indicated that they believed it was acceptable to discriminate against homosexuals. Nearly half, 41 per cent, indicated that they would ordain a practising homosex-

ual, and two thirds said the Anglican Church risked alienating its homosexual members if it did not send out a strong message challenging homophobia.

The conference has astonished many observers and participants because it has at times borne a closer resemblance to a party political gathering than a Christian church at prayer. Bishop Holloway said: "Liberals did

not come here with an agenda that they were determined to put through in a structured way. The others have clearly come with a structured agenda that they have barged through."

One insider on the conservative wing said: "We will never get to the bottom of what happened in this debate."

"People have definitely played dirty politics here. It is operating exactly like a polit-

ical system. The liberals wanted the most ambiguous resolution they can get, which would have left the door open to gay marriages and ordinations and would lead to a commission being set up along the lines of the commission which paved the way for women bishops. The conservatives were determined to oppose this."

Letters, page 21

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Conference to back 'death with dignity'

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS who withdraw treatment to allow a person to die with dignity are today expected to receive the backing of Anglican bishops.

Most of the 739 bishops present at the conference are thought to support a proposal that withholding or withdrawing treatment in certain cases falls within Christian behaviour.

It is expected to be passed, in spite of warnings by Christian lobby groups and at least one bishop that the church is abrogating its responsibility to some of the most vulnerable people in society. The conference yesterday debated a resolution on euthanasia and, after late amendments were filed, is expected to vote on it today.

In the resolution, the worldwide Anglican Church defines euthanasia as the act by which "one person intentionally causes or assists in causing the death of another who is terminally or seriously ill in order to end the other's pain and suffering".

The resolution states that euthanasia "is neither compatible with the Christian faith nor should be permitted in civil legislation". But it distinguishes between "euthanasia and withholding, withdrawing, declining or terminating excessive medical treatment and intervention, all of which may be consonant with Christian faith in enabling a person to die with dignity".

According to the report drawn up by the conference section which studied the issue behind closed doors for two weeks, the euthanasia debate has so far been dominated by the West. "It is also our duty to ensure that the most compassionate and Christ-like care is given to those facing death or making life and death decisions," the report says.

The Archbishop of South-East Asia, the Most Rev Moses Tay, a doctor, said he was feeling "more and more uncomfortable" with what was being proposed. "I do not feel it is appropriate for theologians and bishops to legislate in doctors' language," he said.

"The giving of food and drink is a basic tenet of Christian love and charity. Withholding that seems to be very serious." He questioned whether anyone had the right to write off someone deemed to be in a permanent vegetative state.

"Giving food and drink is Asian culture and to withhold it would violate our consciences," he continued. "Withholding food and drink is equivalent to sentencing a patient to death. It is cruel. It is consciously inflicting suffering. It would open the floodgates to patient abuse."

Charlie Colchester, director of Christian Action Research and Education, a Christian think tank and charity, said: "I am saddened and amazed that the conference appears to be endorsing the practice of withdrawing food and fluid from patients."

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By DALIA ALBERGE ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A NOTEBOOK in which Paul McCartney scribbled draft lyrics for *Hey Jude* and *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* is expected to fetch £120,000 at auction next month.

The spiral-bound jotter also features doodles by the other members of the Beatles, John Lennon, George Harrison and Ringo Starr. It dates from 1967-68, a period in which the Fab Four produced some of their most inspired material.

The book was put together by the group's road manager, Mal Evans, the former Cavern Club bouncer who was shot dead by police in Los Angeles in the 1970s.

It will be the star item in a rock'n'roll memorabilia sale at Sotheby's on September 15, according to Stephen Maycock, their rock and pop specialist. "I feel it's one of the most important pieces of memo-



The book features lyrics for *Hey Jude*

rials that has come on the market." Its contents feature what appears to be a checklist about the filming of promotion clips for *Strawberry Fields Forever*. Among them is an address in Sevenoaks, where keyboards for use in the film might be available.

Elsewhere are 16 lines of lyrics in red ink for *Hey Jude*, originally scribbled as *Hey Jules*; six lines in blue ballpoint for *Sgt Pepper*, with three more in a paper airplane and recording notes by Harrison for *All You Need Is Love*.

Bulgaria's last communist dictator dies lamenting lost 'golden era'

TODOR ZHIVKOV, the Bulgarian dictator also known as the Son of the People, the Shining Light of the Balkans or simply the Emperor, died yesterday at the age of 86, ending a chequered chapter in the history of East European communism.

His death came in the intensive care unit of a Sofia hospital after he had been treated for a viral infection and pneumonia but his condition continued to deteriorate, a hospital statement said.

To be last, he refused to recant, arguing in interviews that his era

Balkans 'emperor' won friends and foes with iron-fist rule, Roger Boyes writes

was a golden one: under his rule Bulgaria was given, electricity, asphalt roads, ample housing and there was no unemployment.

But, according to testimony at his trial, he also enacted brutal policies towards the ethnic Turk population, ruled with the help of secret police, used labour camps and allowed his family to enrich itself. Mr Zhivkov was almost certainly involved in the decision

to assassinate the dissident Georgi Markov on Waterloo Bridge.

Nevertheless, many elderly Bulgarians still regard the Zhivkov years as a blessed time, a period of order that contrasts with the present democratic disorder.

When Mr Zhivkov was led into court in 1991, a grieving woman grabbed him by the sleeve and cried: "Why did you leave us?"

In September 1992, the former

Communist Party chief was jailed for seven years for corruption. He was allowed, however, to serve his sentence under house arrest in a sprawling family home at the foot of the Vitoshka mountains. There he lived, surrounded by high walls, pine and fruit trees. He claimed to survive only on his pension but on my brief visit there were two four-wheel drives parked in the yard and a large domestic staff.

In February 1996, this mild punishment was further eased by a successful appeal. Other charges relating to his Turkish policy — a campaign in the 1980s to assimilate

late Bulgarian Turks forced them to change their names — were still pending but nothing really changed in Mr Zhivkov's life. He continued to open his fan mail, and to visitors he would denounce with passion Mikhail Gorbachev, the former leader of the Soviet Union, as the man who brought about the collapse of communism.

Mr Gorbachev, for his part, dubbed Mr Zhivkov as the "Chinese Emperor of the Balkans".

In a condolence telegram to Mr Zhivkov's family — hardly calculated to soothe their feelings — the Bulgarian President, Petar Stoyanov, said yesterday: "With Todor Zhivkov's death, the era of Bulgarian communism is completely over. Besides being the Communist Party leader in one of the darkest periods of Bulgarian history, he was also head of state for decades... eight million Bulgarians lived in labour, dreams and illusions but also in fear and political repression."

The Zhivkov ruling system was based on flattery and nepotism for it was essentially feudal rather than Marxist. The first family naturally benefited. Mr Zhivkov's favourite daughter, Ludmilla, was

made a politburo member at the age of 32. Various sons-in-law, cousins and grandchildren reaped the benefits of absolute power, flying to Paris and Vienna for shopping, gambling in Monte Carlo or skiing in Switzerland.

By November 1989 his feudal socialism could not be sustained. Mr Zhivkov was replaced by Gorbachev-style socialists who, in turn, gave way to self-enriching socialists. Now the socialists are in opposition and Mr Zhivkov, their old mentor, is dead.

Obituary, page 23

Milosevic bars observers from 'massacre' sites

THE Yugoslav leader President Slobodan Milosevic yesterday risked provoking Western military intervention in Kosovo by refusing observers of the five-nation Contact Group and Western journalists access to the sites of alleged atrocities.

Despite clear warnings from Richard Holbrooke, America's senior Balkan peace broker, that Mr Milosevic is pushing his brand of brinkmanship too far, Serbian security forces on the ground clearly believe the hour of victory is nigh.

On Llashe, in Kosovo's most central and naturally defensive valley, lies in Mr Milosevic's path towards the annihilation of the Kosovo Liberation Army in its present form. Llashe was where most analysts believe the Kosovo conflict really began last November with the ambush of a police convoy that had been attempting to collect a fine from a family. It is now where the site security forces are exacting an overwhelming revenge.

From the ear-splitting explosions and palls of smoke that have seen beyond the valley's high wooded sides this past week, it appears there can be little life in the village. If KLA guerrillas are still in Llashe, they are fighting in the death.

"Sixty-two people are still in there. They have cellars, but

US talks peace but Serbs scent Kosovo victory. Tom Walker writes in Srbica

they cannot move," said one Albanian source. As concealed tanks fired two more shells towards the village from the deserted town of Srbica, a mile to the northeast, police told us to crouch behind the bullet-proof Chevrolets of American Contact Group observers to protect ourselves against alleged "terrorist snipers".

Along with the Contact Group convoy we turned back to Srbica's police station, where the commander confirmed the Llashe offensive was continuing. We took a 30-mile detour around the back of the valley, and tried approaching from the southwest, only to be confronted by a checkpoint. "Diplomats," scoffed an officer in tennis shoes, leaping on to the top of his armoured personnel carrier with his Kalashnikov.

Our rejection was guaranteed when it was confirmed that the Contact Group convoy was carrying Albanian translators, a discovery that was greeted by the usual stream of

obscenities. Evidently these were not men who tune in to the CNN news network. Had they done so on Wednesday night, they would have heard Mr Holbrooke deliver the clearest of warnings to Mr Milosevic that the offensives must stop. Mr Holbrooke reiterated that the Kosovo crisis was deepening, "increasing dramatically the likelihood of active Western intervention of a military sort".

How much the regime is listening to the West, however, remains a mystery. Mr Milosevic delivered a statement on television in which he made no reference to Mr Holbrooke and, indeed, in which he appeared to be operating in a different world.

The state institutions are making clear distinctions between Albanian terrorists and real citizens, and real measures will be directed to safeguarding the citizens and their property," he said, asking for negotiations to resume.

In the government daily *Politika* Goran Matic, the federal Minister of Information, railed against foreign "media scum" in the wake of confused reporting of unconfirmed mass graves.

American and German journalists at the centre of the row had apparently fled Kosovo yesterday, after receiving threats of retribution and arrest.



Residents join hundreds of firemen fighting a forest fire threatening their north Athens suburb yesterday. A state of emergency was declared in the Attica area as the fire, thought to be under control a day earlier, burst into life, killing one person and engulfing 100 homes

Afrikaners win backing for separate homeland

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

FOUR years after apartheid's "homelands" were swept away by majority rule, Afrikaner parliamentarians have concluded that they would like their own "Boerestian" modelled on the reviled system of "separate development" for whites and blacks.

The Volksstaat Council of right-wing Afrikaners, set up by the Mandela Government to investigate the establishment of a separate Afrikaner homeland within South African territo-

ry, has found that there is widespread support among the Afrikaners for a "people's state".

A Volksstaat has been at the heart of Afrikaner nationalist tradition since the 19th century when the Voortrekkers marched north into the bush to escape British influence in the Cape of Good Hope and finally established Boer states in the Orange Free State and the Transvaal. Many Afrikaners now feel equally embattled and paranoid about outside interference from their mainly black rulers in the African National Congress and support the theory of an

all-Afrikaner Bantustan. "We don't accept the idea of a pot where you throw in everything and then you have a new nation," Professor Hendrik Robbertze, chairman of the council, said. "Self-determination [for Afrikaners] will determine whether South Africa will survive as a stable community of secure peoples."

Less than 40 per cent of Afrikaners, who make up 60 per cent of the five million whites in South Africa, voted for the Freedom Front, led by retired General Constand Viljoen, in 1994. But support for a Volksstaat has been

growing, especially among Afrikaner farmers who have been targeted in rural killings. This week a 60-year-old farmer was stopped at the gates of his farm, shot, mutilated beyond recognition, and left in the bush.

Fears of a black onslaught were allayed by the prolonged negotiations which led to majority rule in 1994, and by the moral leadership of Mr Mandela. The President, who turned 80 last month, will retire next year, leaving many Afrikaners fearful that the ANC will pursue anti-white policies in the future.

Conference back 'dead' with digni

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City in peril from Yangtze floods

Thousands of workers race against time to defend industrial heartland, James Pringle in Beijing writes

WUHAN, an industrial hub of seven million, was told last night that the city could be inundated unless citizens mobilised to fight the surging waters of the Yangtze. "Wuhan's flood control has reached the most difficult and crucial time," Vice-Mayor Tu Yong said as the river rose further. "We cannot even be slightly careless, otherwise the whole city will be drowned and then we will become the ones condemned throughout the ages."

A state of emergency was declared yesterday in the province of Hubei, of which Wuhan is the capital. Floods surged eastwards on the almost 4,000-mile-long Yangtze, China's main artery, threatening to reach a new high within the next two days, as Typhoon Otto ploughed westwards from the coast. Upstream, officials at Shashi, a town of light industry with a population of 40,000, were ready to blow up secondary dykes protecting the city if the floodwater reached a certain level to lessen pressure on the main Yangtze River dykes to the east and west. Older people in Shashi have been evacuated. Residents are worried because this is what happened when comparable floods threatened their city in 1954. At that time thousands in Shashi lost their homes. Fan Baojun, Vice-Minister of Civil Affairs in Beijing, said: "We are preparing for the worst. We won't do it [blow up the dykes] unless we can clearly see it is the only measure we can carry out."



A man weeps after his house in Jiangzhou was destroyed by Yangtze floodwaters, expected to rise further as Typhoon Otto sweeps westwards



He disclosed that more than 2,000 people had died from floods since June. Unofficial estimates put the total at 2,500. Nearly six million houses have been ruined or swept away and 12 million others damaged. Mr Fan said that floods, landslides and mudflows caused in part by the weather phenomenon El Niño had affected 240 million

people. More than 13 million of those had been relocated. Mr Fan promised that each of the flood victims, many of whom are camping out in tents on the dykes themselves, would receive a pound of grain every day. On Wednesday, another

dyke broke downstream in Jiangjun, putting 40,000 people in danger. Emergency operations are under way to rescue those in most peril and to evacuate the rest. The Beijing Government reported that floods cut summer grain output by 11 million

tonnes compared with last year, and shaved 0.4 per cent points off economic growth. Seoul: Torrential rains returned to South Korea yesterday. More than 2ft of water fell in the north, raising to more than 206 the number of people killed or missing from

mudslides and floods. More than 2,700 people were left homeless and some 50 buildings and 31 roads were destroyed or damaged, the authorities said. The latest victims included eight soldiers killed yesterday in a landslide at a military

unit in northern Kyonggi province, the Defence Ministry said. "It looks similar to or even worse than the floods we had two years ago which left 29 dead and 245.7 billion won (£120 million) in damages," a state official said. (Reuters)

38 drown as migrant ship goes down off Morocco

FROM GILES TREMBERT IN MADRID

AT LEAST 38 young Moroccan immigrants drowned after their boat capsized during an attempt to cross the Mediterranean to Spain. Spanish authorities yesterday confirmed that only one person survived the sinking of the boat, which was rammed by another vessel that was supposed to pick up the would-be immigrants and take them to Spain.

It was the biggest single disaster in what has become an increasing common tale of illegal North African immigrants. Many bodies were washed out into the Atlantic by the fast-moving water, but more than 100 people are estimated to die this way every year. Moroccan authorities said yesterday they had arrested four people who were believed to have arranged the trip. The price of an illegal crossing to the south coast of Spain is about £1,000.

Moroccan and Spanish organised crime is believed to be behind the trade. Morocco claims the mafias are often based in the two Spanish north African enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla.

A Spanish Interior Ministry spokesman said that the sinking took place last month in Moroccan waters near the city of Jador. Spain had not been informed until later and had not been asked to take part in attempts to rescue the survivors.

The sinking only became public knowledge yesterday after charity groups complained that the victim's bodies had been left floating off the coast of Melilla for more than ten days.

Indians mark Hiroshima blast with anti-nuclear protest in Delhi

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

A MASS march of anti-nuclear demonstrators in Delhi yesterday denounced the country's tests while marking the 53rd anniversary of the American atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The protesters expressed fears that India and Pakistan are heading

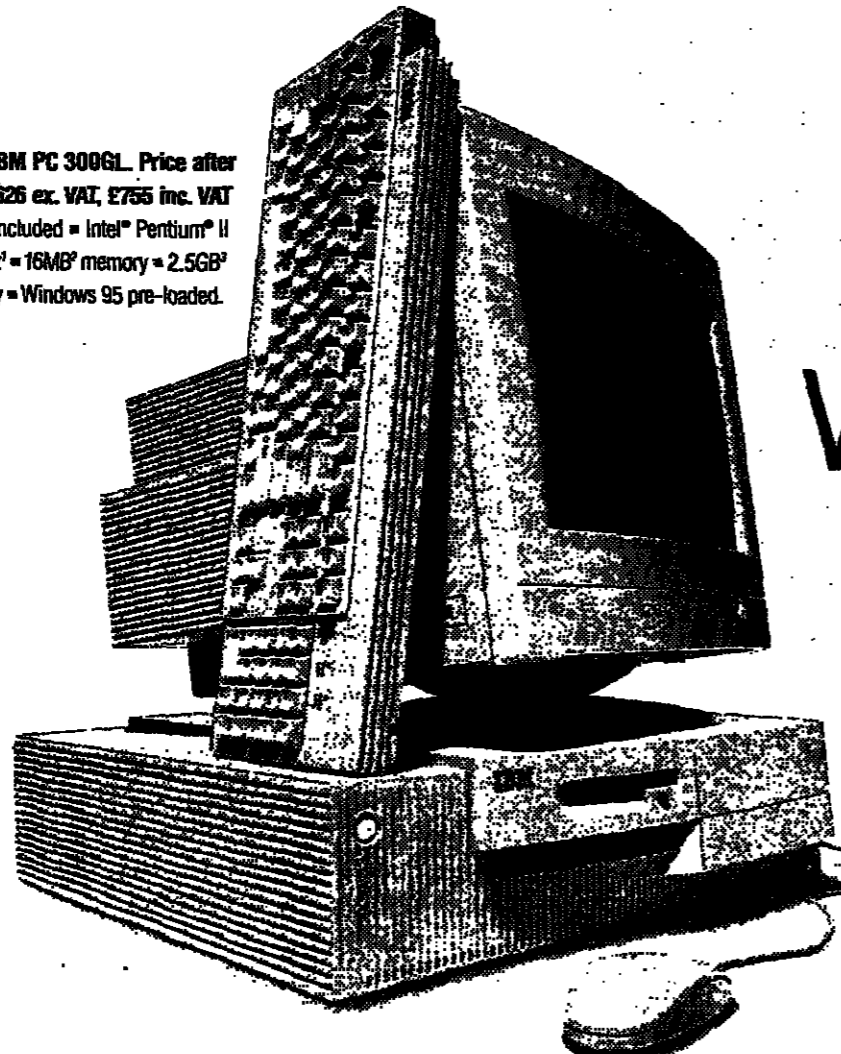
towards nuclear war — fears heightened by continuing cross-border fighting in Kashmir and a warning by Pakistan of conflict. The protest was led by two of India's best-known writers: Arundhati Roy, winner of the Booker Prize for *The God of Small Things*, and Khushwant Singh, a leading author for more than half a century. She led 5,000 men, women and children

shouting anti-nuclear slogans on a 2.5-mile walk from the back of the 17th-century Red Fort monument to a city square. "No more Hiroshima. No more atom bomb," read one banner. Another said: "Bread, not bomb." The march is the first mass expression of disgust with India's nuclear tests in May, which initially brought a wave of euphoria. That

mood has since given way to increasing soul-searching and doubt. One consequence of the blasts has been a surge in Hindu religious intolerance. The tests were almost certainly carried out by India's fragile Hindu nationalist-led coalition Government to rouse patriotic sentiment and buy more time in power — a miscalculation since its downfall remains all but inevitable as coalition partners continue fighting among themselves.

Ms Roy condemned the nuclear blasts in a cover article for *Outlook* magazine, declaring that they represented the end of imagination. "The air is thick with ugliness and there's the unmistakable stench of fascism on the breeze." She attacked the intensive criticism levelled at anybody opposing the nuclear tests —

"not only can the Government use (the bomb) to threaten the enemy, they can use it to declare war on their own people." "If protesting against having a nuclear bomb implanted in my brain is anti-Hindu and anti-nation, then I secede," she added. "I hereby declare myself an independent, mobile republic. My world has died and I write to mourn its passing."



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Iraq has broken its pledge to me. sa Annan

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Iraq has broken its pledge to me, says Annan

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

KOFI ANNAN, the United Nations Secretary-General, declared yesterday that Iraq's latest defiance of UN weapons inspectors violated the access agreement he struck in Baghdad in February.

Mr Annan, who once called Saddam Hussein "a man I can do business with", said Iraq's decision to suspend co-operation with the inspectors contravened the so-called Memorandum of Understanding that he negotiated personally with the Iraqi President.

"This is typical Iraqi behaviour," lamed Bill Richardson, the US Ambassador. "They are repudiating Security Council resolutions. They are repudiating the agreement with the Secretary-General... the Security Council is going to have to respond in a very strong, unmistakable way."

Richard Butler, the chief UN weapons inspector, said after discussions with Mr Annan that the council would have to seek "creative" ways to break Iraq's cycle of defiance. But members, reluctant to threaten military action to force compliance, struggled to devise an effective response.

Diplomats said the council president would probably is-

sue an agreed statement calling on Iraq to resume co-operation with the UN Special Commission (Unscoc), which runs the inspections, but no warning of any "serious consequences" — diplomatic code for a military response.

Briefing the Security Council yesterday, Mr Butler denied complaints by Russian and French officials that he had provoked the latest crisis by walking out of Baghdad talks without consulting the Security Council. Mr Butler said Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, had told him there was no point in holding a further meeting as planned and he had telephoned Danilo Turk, the Slovenian President of the Security Council, before deciding to leave Iraq.

In the closed-door Security Council meeting, Russia hinted that Mr Butler should be removed. "When you reach a deadlock in negotiations, sometimes the negotiator needs to be replaced," one diplomat quoted Moscow's representative as saying. The comment echoed Iraq's demands for Unscoc to be restructured and moved from New York to either Geneva or Vienna to rid it of American influence.

Iraqi officials said UN inspectors would no longer be allowed to mount intrusive spot inspections, but could continue with routine monitoring. In a letter to the Security Council, Mr Aziz demanded that Unscoc give Iraq the clean bill of health needed for a lifting of sanctions, saying that after 260 inspection missions to some 9,340 sites it was time to end its investigation. He called the inspectors' remaining questions "trivial matters."

□ Baghdad: Iraqis will receive a full food ration this month for the first time in a year, the UN's humanitarian mission in Iraq said yesterday.

The monthly ration — part of the oil-for-food deal — consists of 20lb of flour, 6lb of infant formula, as well as a small amount of rice, sugar, tea, vegetables, oil and salt. The food programme, which began in December 1996, is operated under strict UN supervision. (AFP)

Arafat minister quits 'corrupt' Cabinet

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

HANAN ASHRAWI, one of the best known and most articulate figures in the Palestinian Authority, resigned yesterday from Yasser Arafat's new Cabinet in protest against corruption and mismanagement.

Mr Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Authority, named his new Cabinet on Wednesday but refused to bow to the demands of his legislators who demanded the dismissal of ministers. Instead, Mr Arafat retained all the ministers and added ten more to the Cabinet.

"When people called for change they didn't ask for additions," Mrs Ashrawi said. "They asked for change in the status quo but what we see now is maintaining what existed, adding people to it."

A second minister, Abdel Jawad Saleh, also quit over Mr Arafat's failure to tackle corruption and labelled the new Cabinet a "tragedy".

A report to the Palestinian Legislative Council identified the ministers — Nabil Shaath, Jamil Tarifi and Ali Jawasrah — as those who had allegedly used government funds for personal benefit. Mr Tarifi, the Civil Affairs Minister and the most heavily criticised, said he saw Mr Arafat's decision to retain him



Hanan Ashrawi in Ramallah yesterday after announcing her resignation

as clearing him of all corruption charges.

Mrs Ashrawi also criticised the Palestinian leadership for not being more successful in the peace talks with Israel and was equally harsh against the US Government. "Rather than facing up to its powerlessness before Israel, the

American Administration is putting pressure on the Palestinians," she said.

Mrs Ashrawi first entered the international spotlight in 1991 when she was the able spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation at the peace talks in Madrid and has remained a leading voice for

her people in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

Her criticism of Mr Arafat's new Cabinet was last night rejected by the Justice Minister, Freih Abu Meidein. He said that the expanded ministry was aimed at a unified front against Israel.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Britons advised to flee Congo conflict

Rebellion against President Kabila spread to the Democratic Republic of the Congo's far west yesterday with attacks on an oil-producing town and an Atlantic naval base. Government officials threatened war against Rwanda for allegedly backing the uprising (Sam Kiley writes).

Britain urged its citizens — up to 400 businessmen, aid workers and missionaries are in the country — to leave because of the risk of a serious escalation in the fighting. Fears that the Congo will fragment prompted African leaders to call an emergency summit in the southern Congolese city of Lubumbashi today. South Africa, Rwanda, Zambia, Namibia and Uganda are expected to attend.

Exile Simone blames racism

Beirut: Nina Simone, the Europe-based American jazz singer, blamed racism in the United States for her decision to live abroad for the past 25 years. Speaking here a day after arriving in Lebanon to sing at an annual festival, Simone, 65, said that as a black person, "I have paid a heavy price fighting the Establishment". She did not elaborate, but said that racial inequality in the United States was now "worse than ever". Simone took part in the civil rights' movement of the Sixties and dedicated several songs to the cause of racial equality. She left the United States in 1973. (AP)

Political funding scandal

Paris: François Léotard, the former conservative Defence Minister and presidential hopeful, is expected to be placed under formal legal investigation over an unfolding party funding scandal, according to *Le Monde* (Ben Macintyre writes). The former leader of the UDF group in Parliament will appear before magistrates investigating a possibly illegal loan of Fr5,000,000 (£500,000) made in 1996 by the Fondo Sociale di Cooperazione, a Milanese financial firm, to the Republican Party, M Léotard's political grouping.

'French' shipwreck mistake

Austin: A shipwreck retrieved from Matagorda Bay in February is not the *Aimable*, the supply ship of 17th-century French explorer René La Salle, the Texas Historical Commission said, dashing initial hopes to the contrary. Artifacts indicate that the wreck is younger than first thought, dating back to the mid-to-late 18th century, and Spanish in origin. (AP)

Rocket for forgetful forces

Manila: Philippine navy and air force officials will be asked to explain why President Estrada and Orlando Mercado, the Defence Secretary, were not told before the start of live-fire, 18-hour war exercises with the US Navy in the South China Sea outside Philippine territorial waters. "They simply forgot to tell us," the President said. (AP)

Old sites monitored

Nicosia: Iraq yesterday gave the impression it was business as usual for the weapons inspectors, at least until the Security Council meeting. (Chris Drule writes).

The monitoring of sites that have been inspected already continued unimpeded. A convoy of four UN vehicles left the Canal Hotel in the eastern outskirts of the capital followed by several cars carrying Iraqi officials.

Nearly 500 sites have been inspected and about 100 UN experts pay regular visits to them or use remote-controlled cameras and sensors as part of a surveillance scheme.

Shin Bet row denied

Jerusalem: Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, has denied reports that he asked for the resignation of the head of the secret police, Shin Bet (Ross Dunn writes).

Mr Netanyahu is understood to have been angered by the assessment of Ami Ayalon, the Shin Bet chief, that there was a risk of escalating violence if the stalemate in the peace negotiations with the Palestinians continued.

Citing Israeli intelligence sources, the newsletter *Foreign Report* said that Mr Ayalon had warned of "irreversible conflict" between Israeli and Palestinian forces if the impasse — for which Mr Netanyahu is widely blamed — was not broken.

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Marie Noe, 70, and husband Arthur, 76, all of whose ten children perished in infancy in Philadelphia

'Cot deaths were murder'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A WOMAN aged 70 from Philadelphia has been charged with murdering eight of her ten children, allegedly suffocating them to death in their infancy, at ages ranging from a few weeks to 14 months old. It found guilty, Marie Noe faces life imprisonment.

Two of her children - Letitia and Theresa - died of incontrovertibly natural causes. The former was still-born in 1959, while the latter lived only for six hours, never leaving the hospital. Mrs Noe's husband, Arthur, 76, a retired textile worker, was not charged. All the deaths occurred while the infants were in the mother's sole custody and while he was at work.

The couple's first child, Richard, lived for exactly a month, dying in April 1949. He was taken to hospital after his breathing ceased. Mrs Noe called the ambulance herself. Over the next 29 years, the same distressing pattern was to be repeated seven times: in each case, she would call for help, saying her child was not breathing and was "blue in the face". None lived through the ambulance trip to hospital.

Doctors were not able to explain the deaths at first, but believed that the children succumbed to natural causes. In the early 1960s her story came to play an important part in the medical movement to recognise the existence of sudden infant death syndrome (Sids), commonly known as "cot death". In



A board at a press conference lists the post-mortem examination results

1963 Mrs Noe was the centrepiece of an article in *Life* magazine. She was portrayed as a brave heroine and survivor, a tragic figure whose besetness would have knocked the stuffing out of weaker mortals.

The magazine said: "Courage, in her lexicon, counts more than tears." This was offered by the author as the reason why Mrs Noe hardly ever visited her babies' graves. Although the official investigations into the deaths were never closed, they remained dormant until last autumn, when a book called *The Death of Innocents* was published. Written by Richard Firstman and Jamie Talan, it documented how doctors often ignore evidence of infanticide in their attempts to fit child deaths into their pet theories about Sids. The authors

discussed the Noe family at length, concluding that theirs could be one of the worst cases of infanticide on record. The book forced the "cot death" lobby to acknowledge that multiple cases of Sids in one family were extraordinarily rare. A reviewer wrote: "Some physicians still believe Sids runs in families. It doesn't - murder does."

Philadelphia, a local magazine, soon wrote about Mrs Noe in light of the new book. In an interview Mrs Noe said: "They really couldn't prove I did any harm to the children. Every one of them children didn't have a bruise, didn't have anything medically wrong... We just weren't meant to have children, I guess." Reacting to the magazine story, the police gradually resumed their investi-

gations into the deaths of the Noe children. The post-mortem exam reports were reviewed by Dr Hareesh Mirchandani, Philadelphia's medical examiner, who concluded that all eight infants had been suffocated.

Announcing Mrs Noe's arrest, Lynne Abraham, the Philadelphia district attorney, said that the case would force Americans to face some grim facts. "I think that as a country we don't want to admit to ourselves that mothers kill their children. But we are increasingly confronted with evidence of this kind of crime."

An affidavit attached to the arrest warrant stated: "The investigation of the deaths indicates that all of the babies were normal at birth and all of them were healthy and developing normally. All of the eight infants were in the exclusive custody of the mother, Marie Noe, at the time of their deaths. All eight infants were described by their mother as gasping for breath and turning blue."

Ms Abraham said: "She gave a statement. She admitted she smothered four of the eight. The other four, she said she either didn't remember how the children died, or the specifics of how they died."

Neither the police nor the prosecution service would speculate on the motives behind Mrs Noe's alleged crimes, but disclosed that the Noes had taken out insurance policies on six of the eight dead children. Mrs Noe's lawyer said that she denied the charges.



Advertisement relies on Bogart's appeal

Drinks makers target older tipplers

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

THE American drinks industry has started to target the country's fifty- and sixty-somethings, aiming catchy new advertising campaigns at elderly drinkers.

Leading the charge on Grandpa Gutzler is Diageo, the makers of Gordon's gin. In an attempt to rekindle memories of a golden age, when men were men and women were Katharine Hepburn, the company has produced a "collector's edition" bottle, featuring Humphrey Bogart on the label. The illustration depicts "Bogie" playing Charlie Allnut, the rasping character from *The African Queen*, pulling a bottle of Gordon's from a crate full of liquor.

Mike Pommer, vice-president of marketing for Diageo's North American unit, said that Bogart was being used because he recalled an era when most people did not think twice before knocking back a cocktail or two before dinner. The company is playing a catch-up demographic game: by 2005, about 42 per cent of America's adult population will be over 50.

Polls also show that the elderly drink more frequently - but not more heavily - than the young. "It makes much more sense to fish when the fish are," Mr Pommer told *The Wall Street Journal* yesterday.

Overturns to the older drinkers many steadfast resistance from the medical lobby: more than 9 per cent of over-50s take medication, the majority of which is harmful when mixed with alcohol.

Bloodshed and bombs greet new president

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

COLOMBIA'S left-wing guerrillas have unleashed the most ferocious wave of attacks in 35 years of civil war, seemingly as a welcome to President Pastrana who is sworn into office tomorrow.

Señor Pastrana had vowed to step into office as a peacemaker with the rebels. Yesterday a lorry packed with dynamite exploded near Bogotá's airport, where dignitaries were arriving for his inauguration. No one was hurt.

In the past five days alone, more than 300 people, including 40 civilians, have been killed as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and the National Liberation Army launched simultaneous attacks on dozens of army and police bases.

Yesterday more than 400 rebels took over a police anti-narcotics base in the southern jungle town of Miraflores, killing at least 60 policemen. Earlier this week, 46 soldiers were killed at Uribe, 13 oil drilling installations were wrecked along Colombia's north coastline, and 35 people - some in the security forces - died in city car bomb blasts.

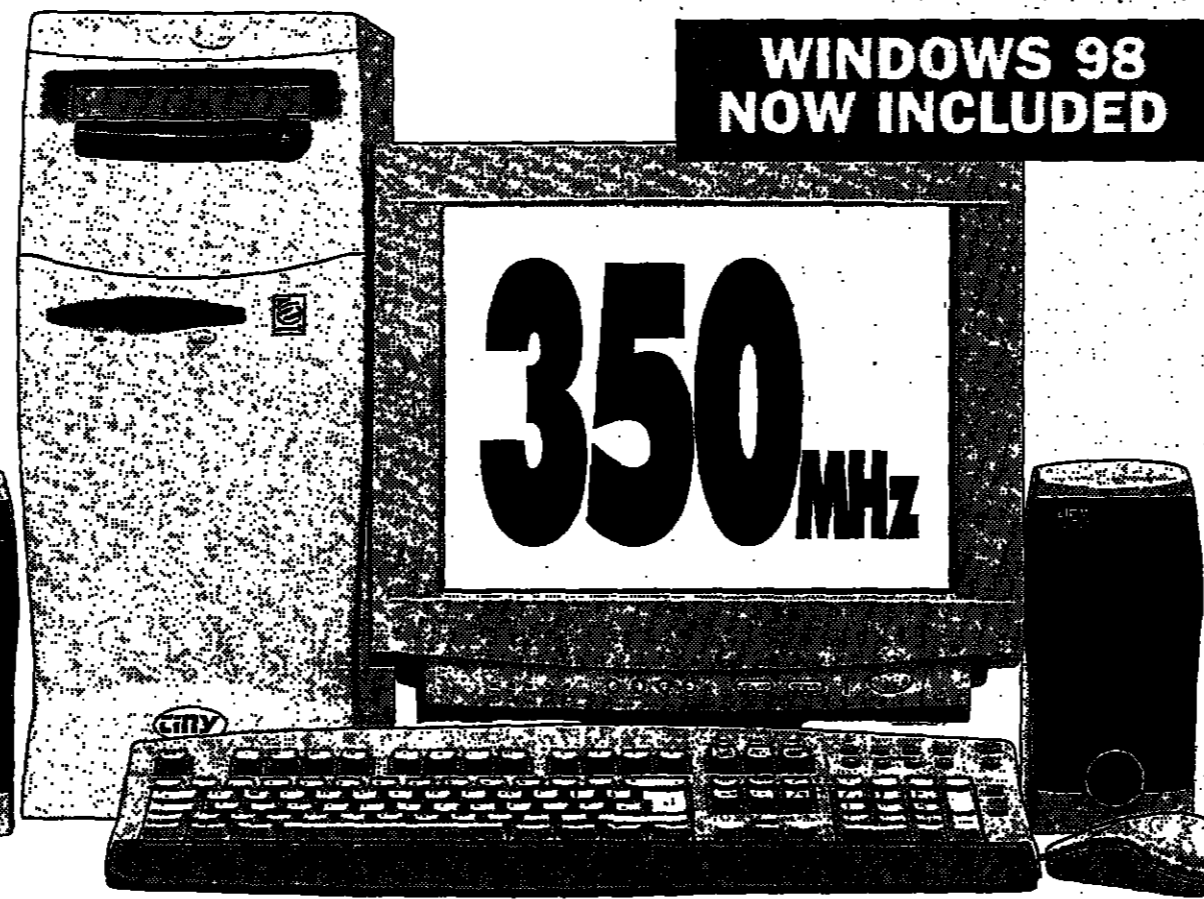
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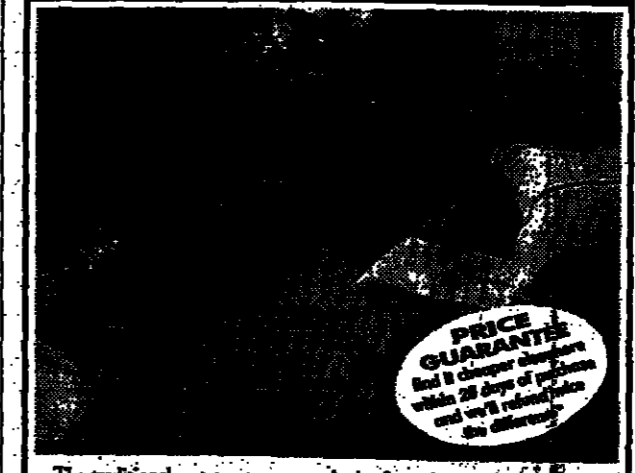
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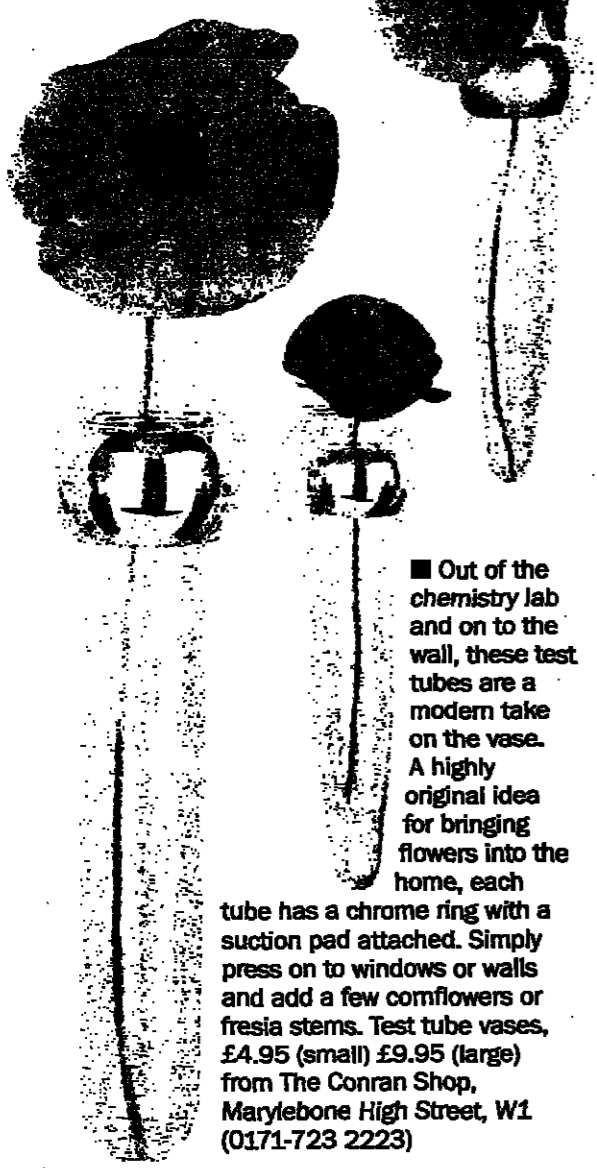
THE SUNDAY

DIAZ DUM DOW

It looks sweet. It plays innocent. It's Cameron Diaz has become a raunchy film star. Catch her this Sunday.

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■ Out of the chemistry lab and on to the wall, these test tubes are a modern take on the vase. A highly original idea for bringing flowers into the home, each tube has a chrome ring with a suction pad attached. Simply press on to windows or walls and add a few cornflowers or freesia stems. Test tube vases, £4.95 (small) £9.95 (large) from The Conran Shop, Marylebone High Street, W1 (0171-723 2223)



■ Reminiscent of the Ralph Lauren Polo Sport line, these Next beach accessories will help you to look the part at a fraction of the price. This canary yellow pouch bag (£14.99) is perfect for carrying around a CD player while the co-ordinating water bottle (£6.99) will keep you and your refreshments cool. (0116-284 9424)

Cool, calm coir



Simple but stunning, and oh-so-chic, coir matting is irresistible to householders in search of the Nineties look. Buyers are clearly not deterred by the fact that it is impossible to clean

HOT TIP

As an alternative to moisturiser, L'Oréal Prodiges is a multi-purpose beauty product. Although an oil, its texture is very light and almost dry. Favoured by Helena Christensen, it is perfect for all skin types (even oily) and can be used on your face, body and even hair. It creates a subtle shine and really makes your skin glow and has the added bonus of an amazing aroma and Spf 4. £22 from Space NK (0870-607 7060)

It may be impractical but natural flooring is simply irresistible, says Penny Wark

Ever since the removal men departed last September I have been a sucker for interiors magazines. I have dreamt about gardens so dense you could lose yourself in them; I have lusted after bathrooms plated with madly clashing antique tiles. But what I have come to covet most are the immaculate swaths of natural matting that cover the floors of almost every home defined as desirable. In each magazine I open, there it is: sisal in cottages, coir in castles. It is always sand-coloured, and I particularly like the herringbone. I had to have some, preferably throughout my house. In John Lewis, seagrass was £13 a metre — though possibly not cat-proof, I thought, remembering my feline's fondness for a laundry basket I once owned. She shredded it. Or there was herringbone coir at £12, plus £11.25 a metre for underlay and fitting. Very stately home but a bit prickly beneath the toes. Not necessarily what one wants in the bedroom. I canvassed fashionable friends. Coir is wonderful, they said. Looks stunning, so cheap, they loved it and would never have anything else. Nothing the Dyson can't cope with, said one who installed wall-to-wall coir after tenants wrecked the carpets. Lasts for ever, said another. Then they would mention, as though it was not important, that you can't clean it. What? You can't get red wine out and even water leaves a stain. One stylish friend had to reposition the furniture to cover a large blemish. Visitors often wonder why he has a bookcase in the middle of the floor. Undeterred, I wandered into a smart carpet shop. I was thinking of coir, I admitted. "Can't clean it, smells when it gets wet and can't put it on stairs because it's slippery," said the boss. "Much better to go for the wool carpet which looks like coir." Given that this actually looked like the seedy thin cord carpeting I remember from student hovels circa 1980, I could not see the point. My next excursion was to the carpet warehouse opposite my local supermarket. This looked the kind of place one might get value for money. I was immediately set upon by a small round woman. Without asking what I wanted, she marched me towards rolls of carpet remnants which she assured me were very cheap. What would it cost for a small roomful? I asked. She got out her calculator. Remnant at £170, underlay at £5.99 a metre, fitting at, well, a lot, gripper rods, brass bars... £400 for a small room, she announced. Personally, she would go for the twist on special offer. If I bought that she could do the same underlay at £2.99 a metre and fitting would be only £14; £270 all-in, she announced triumphantly. So the remnants weren't actually cheap? Er, no. I confessed my passion for natural flooring. "It's difficult to fit, has to be glued, you can't clean it, and it's £14.99 a metre plus £11.99 a metre for underlay, plus fitting," small round woman said. "Jute doesn't wear well. I can usually talk people your age out of this natural stuff." The only trouble was, she hadn't. My mother rang. What was I going to do about carpets? she wondered, obviously hoping I would go for something warm and swirly. I am having the boards stripped in the hall and dining room, and coir everywhere else, I replied. I could feel her squirm. Then I thought of beloved, who every weekend lies on the floor to watch televised football, cricket, rugby, golf, Formula One, even ice skating. As a man who likes carpet he can go to sleep in, he wouldn't think much of scratchy natural flooring either. I rang John Lewis. The herringbone coir arrives next week.

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CLASSICS, £22.50
Easy to apply, this slender handle with a very fine brush. The metallic colours are intense in silver, gold and bronze. Needs a steady hand to apply it, and you need two coats. Not good for talking in your bag as the glass bottle may break. From selected department stores nationwide (0181-998 9423) 10/10

BARRY M, £3.95
Easy to apply silvery-blue liquid liner. Looked initially quite heavy in colour on the lid, worked best when blunted with fingertip. It then had an excellent shimmering effect, which looked good behind heavy mascara. Difficult to remove. Mail order (0181-349 2992) 8/10

JIL SANDER, £9
The liner comes with a small tapered brush and requires less skill to apply than those with longer brushes. The colour is strong and dense but it can smudge easily. Available exclusively to Harrods (0171-730 1234) 7/10

SHU UEMURA, £17
Sleek silver metal packaging. Works like a fountain pen and needs ink cartridges. It is difficult to get the ink to flow into the rib, but once the colour has been soaked up, it works smoothly and precisely, like a Japanese watercolour brush. Available from Harvey Nichols (0171-235 2375) 9/10

RIMMEL, £2.99
This needs a steady hand to apply. Available in silver and gold, colour goes on evenly but it needs to be applied twice for a stronger, longer-lasting colour. Perfect for an evening out, but it can be worn during the day. Available from Boots and Superdrug 8/10

CLASSICS, £4.50
As thin as a smart rollerball pen, this liquid eyeliner has a firm, long brush which is great for unsteady hands. The colour is stronger than most, but the strength is more watercolour than oil paint. Marks & Spencer (0171-935 4422) 8/10

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GALLERIA NERI

A social worker sacked for revealing abuse in children's homes talks to Anjana Ahuja

Nobody cared much when a young boy absconded from Ty'r Felin, a children's home in North Wales. Children ran away all the time. Sometimes they sought the security of their own families; on other occasions, the police would pluck them off the street like discarded sweet wrappers and escort them back to their lonely, loveless existences in care.

Alison Taylor, the social worker on duty at Ty'r Felin that weekend, knew the boy had escaped to be with his family; he had been promised home leave but it had been withdrawn without explanation. The boy ran off but was brought back. "On Monday morning a staff member read the log books and called this lad into his office," she recalls. "I heard him yelling and calling the boy names, and saying that he would be locked up if he didn't stop running away. Then I heard the boy yell. I went in and found this staff member beating the boy and telling him to lick his boots."

This incident in the late 1970s features in a horrifying tale of child abuse which has been unfolding at a tribunal in Ewloe, Clwyd, since January last year. The tribunal has heard 250 witnesses testify to a regime of terror in residential homes across Clwyd and Gwynedd that included brutal beatings, the physical and mental intimidation of children and staff, and a culture of silence. The findings are to be published later this year.

However, the essence of the 30,000 pages of proceedings can be distilled into a handful of unpalatable facts: that complaints about care staff had been made time and time again; that, as a rule, children were not to be believed; that political infighting had obscured the goings-on inside council-run institutions. Most disturbing of all is that Mrs Taylor, who years earlier had expressed her misgivings about her colleagues, was sacked for speaking out.

Mrs Taylor, 54, a quiet, plainly dressed chain-smoker, never intended to be a social worker but her conscience got the better of her. She ditched her architecture degree after realising that she would not be another Frank Lloyd Wright but a jobbing participant in a dubious social experiment. "At that time, high-rise living was seen as an answer to all our social problems, and tower blocks were going up like mushrooms. But in the process, cities were having their hearts ripped out."

Her change of direction 34 years ago coincided with the birth of her daughter, Rachel, by her first husband, a naval officer. To keep her mind occupied, she took private studies on philosophy and psychology at Bangor University. In 1970, Mrs Taylor, then divorced, joined a hospital just outside Bangor as an industrial therapist, looking after people too mentally handicapped or too dangerous to be fostered on society but who could still work. Some of her charges came from Rampton and Broadmoor; she trained them to make Welsh wool tablemats and cushions, among other things.

A few years later Mrs Taylor moved to Stockport, taking a job in psychiatric rehabilitation. She then became deputy head of a probation unit for young male offenders in Sheffield. She remarried, had a miscarriage and then a son, Aaron, now 22. In 1976, the family decided to return to North Wales. With Mrs Taylor's experience, Gwynedd County Council snapped her up. She immediately joined Ty'r Felin as deputy manager, where she witnessed the "boot licking" incident. She threatened to go to the police if it happened again. The staff member responsible apologised to the boy and all seemed well.

Between 1980 and 1982, Mrs Taylor left to acquire qualifications that would allow her to move up the ranks. She was rewarded by being put in charge of a new home, Ty'r Newydd, near Bangor. This was when she realised the scale of abuse operating in the other homes run by Gwynedd County Council. "Because children in care move around a lot, I had kids who had been through Ty'r Felin and were abused themselves or knew kids who had been through Ty'r Felin. They would talk to me. Between 1983 and 1985 I accumulated names and information."

Mrs Taylor heard of children being beaten up, kicked down stairs and then locked away. One girl told her in



Blowing the whistle on child abuse

quity that she had been asked to dress up in a maid's outfit by a staff member who then fondled her. Several other witnesses complained about the prurient attitude of a certain colleague; another witness described how, while performing cleaning duties in Ty'r Felin, he had discovered a photograph of a staff member, his wife and an unidentified child. All were naked.

"I sent a confidential letter to Lucille Hughes (director of social services) about one particular incident of abuse, and nothing was done. The only thing that happened was that a staff member's wife rang up and said: 'How could you do it? We thought you were our friend.' I was gobsmacked. To me, that was enough."

She decided it was time to break ranks and go outside

Office, the Crown Prosecution Service, North Wales Police, even to Margaret Thatcher. Meanwhile, she successfully sued for unfair dismissal.

She then teamed up with a television researcher for a documentary on Ty'r Felin to locate children named as possible abuse victims. That particular programme was never made but in 1991 an ITV documentary about Ty'r Felin prompted a new police investigation into the Gwynedd allegations. It lasted two years but resulted in no prosecutions.

Meanwhile, similarly disturbing stories had begun to emerge from the neighbouring county of Clwyd; Stephen Norris, the head of one children's home, was identified as an abuser with a fondness for young boys.

In 1996, after four high-profile

bear having nothing to do, and whose crime because those were the kinds of books she read. Her first attempt, *Simeon's Bride*, was accepted by a publisher in 1994. Paperback rights were sold to Penguin; German, Japanese and American rights have been sold to other publishing houses. Her second book, *In Cullin Night*, was about child abuse (she says it is informed by, but not based on, her personal experience). Her latest novel, *The House of Women*, is, like the previous two, a murder mystery featuring her Bangor-based detective, Michael McKenna.

She estimates that she has made about £70,000 from her books but, even though comparisons with Ruth Rendell and P.D. James (with whom she held a joint book-signing) promise to bring her more money, she has no intention of moving from her pre-war semi-detached house in Bangor. "I like to live simply because it keeps the mind clear."

Mrs Taylor's work on *The House of Women* was delayed by her preparations for the tribunal, where she spent four days giving evidence. In 1996 she won a Campaign for Freedom of Information Award for her pains. Yet she does not feel victorious: "I sometimes castigate myself for not acting earlier."

"Because I was working in an institution, my own perspective was affected by the situation. I had to think about whether the children might have been exaggerating the things they were telling me, because they were so awful. How could such things be going on so persistently under the noses of so many people?"

She is now supporting the many children who are mounting legal cases against Gwynedd County Council. However, she reserves the bulk of her disdain for the police: "Most of the information the police finally dredged up in 1991-93 was there for the taking in 1986. They didn't take it and their attitude condemned children to another six years of misery. I think they, like so many people, had an attitude problem to children in care."

"The irony is that people in state care are presumed to be safer there than with their parents. There is this awful presumption that social workers are innately more honourable than the rest of society, but they are no different from anyone else."

• *The House of Women*, (W&A), £16.99



Alison Taylor was labelled "a subversive" for voicing her fears

the council. She says matter-of-factly: "I had a moral responsibility to those children in care and those coming into care. I had tried talking to colleagues, but they didn't want to know. I was told by several people not to say anything because they would lose their job or get other people into trouble. Well, some jobs aren't worth having if that is what you have to do to keep them."

She took her complaints to Keith Marshall, a local councillor she trusted. In turn, he informed the police. North Wales Police investigators: it transpired at the tribunal that the report prepared by them labelled Mrs Taylor a "subversive" who was not to be trusted. Mrs Taylor was dismissed in 1987 for "causing a breakdown in communication". At the tribunal, it was revealed that another staff member had complained in 1980; the complainant had their contract terminated, too.

Mrs Taylor could have shut up, but she didn't. She fired off

Oh, no, they'll find out how we truly live

Obviously, it's not everyone who feels comfortable about lending their house while they're away on their summer holiday to expatriate friends who'll be visiting London at just the same time that you'll be away and would love to stay somewhere more homely than a hotel. To make this kind of selfless, generous gesture, you have to be the sort of person who, when your wife returns from a trip to New York and announces that she has lent the house to these close friends, warmly recalls the glorious afternoon you and they spent together only a few months ago, catching up with each other's news over brunch in Greenwich Village while their cute three-year-old son amused himself by singing pretty songs and mopping up his spill orange juice with his napkin and smearing fistfuls of apricot jam over the other diners' chairs... Hey, wait a second!

"Well they're thrilled about the idea and they're arriving two days after we leave," said my wife.

"But what if they find our whips and chocolate body paint?"

"But we don't possess any whips or chocolate body paint?"

"Yes, but what if the last people we lent the house to bought some in London, in a frisky holiday mood, and left them somewhere for use on their next visit?"

"Oh, we'd have come across them by now."

"Are you mad? The house is in such a mess it can take two days to locate our own children!"

"WE HAVE CHILDREN?"

So at least the house got pretty thoroughly cleaned.

You can't lend someone a dirty house. When our regular cleaning lady arrived on the day before we left for our holiday she even remarked that she had never seen the house looking so tidy - which is actually something that we'd been meaning to take up with her for some time but had never summoned the courage to do.

This is because we now regard employing her as a way of helping out a young woman from Madeira, from whom we have come to expect nothing in return except (a) that she comes to our house regularly to complain that we haven't bought enough Jif cleaner or the Marigold gloves (medium) she asked for last time; and (b) an annual gift she brings back for us, from her summer trip home, of a dense fruit cake made from an ancient Madeiran recipe that has been lovingly handed down through generations of Madeiran stonemasons.

Following Madeiran tradition, we carefully move this delicacy from cake tin to cake

tin for several months until the grand day arrives for the family to ceremoniously bring out the Madeiran fruit cake and carefully read aloud from the label to confirm that it has finally passed its eat-by date, thus enabling us to throw it away on health grounds without feeling guilty.

But even when it has been cleaned and tidied, you can't help feeling that your house might be sending the wrong signals to those not familiar with its quirks. What if our friends open one of the cardboard boxes we have positioned in a few corners of the house, and feel curious enough to unwrap one of the tight balls of white paper to discover a half-full ashtray, or an old coffee-stained

cup now harbouring bacterial life forms the size of Danny DeVito? Might they actually think that we wrapped up these unsanitary items for safe-keeping? Would they not realise that we have better things to do with our lives than wrap up dirty coffee cups, and that is precisely why we hired someone else to do it? These boxes are relics of various domestic and international moves. They have stood unopened since the removal men delivered them.

Removal men have realised that moving house, let alone country, is a frantic experience, and interrupting their client to ask where the dustbin is, so they can empty an ashtray before embalming it in four sheets of white paper and burying it in a box, would needlessly upset the client. Which is why they just wrap and pack everything, including any sleeping children - although, so as not to disturb them,

they parcel up the entire cot in white paper. What if our house guests spot the Cliff Richard biography and think that I bought it, rather than that it was given to me to review many years ago? Or spot the Blow-glass antelope and don't realise it was a present? And they did realise we were about to change the curtains in the bedroom, didn't they? They DIDN'T? I just know we should have thrown the Cheesetrings away. Or at least left a note pointing out that it was our nanny who bought these and that it seemed wasteful to throw them away since they have the texture of something indestructible and probably have a shelf-life of several years, and might also prove useful one day as emergency window putty?

Visitors can't help but judge. And you know what? They were gone by the time we got back to London, but they left us a case of the most spectacular white burgundy.

See? Obviously they even took pity on our wine stocks.



MAN ON TOP
JOE JOSEPH

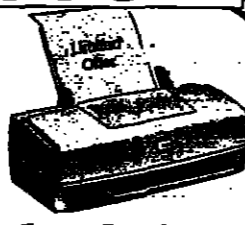
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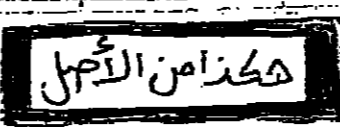
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Music is dead; long live music

Daniel Johnson rehearses variations on a British enigma

Is music moribund? Or, if not, are we? In Britain at least, as Germans used to sneer, "the land without music?"

As I looked down on a Prom packed with some 6,000 souls in paradise this week, such thoughts seemed remote, not to say absurd. Few capitals could fill that cavernous abyss night after night, from July to September, with pilgrims from every corner of these isles, while millions more enjoy the feast on radio. On Tuesday they were there to hear Panufnik's *Katyn Epitaph*, a shattering evocation of the massacre of Polish soldiers on Stalin's orders; Yo-Yo Ma's rendering of Dvorak's divine Cello Concerto (every bit as good as the prewar recording by Fabio Casals); and Elgar's First Symphony, of which more later. For two and a half hours this mass of humanity sat still, captured and enraptured by the spell of Tadaaki Otaka's baton. These musical death throes seem remarkably lifelike.

Perhaps, though, we who sit up in the gods at the Albert Hall are merely the denizens of a musical Valhalla, awaiting our *Götterdämmerung*. Certainly the ravens are drawing near with their tidings of impending doom. Dr Jonathan Miller denounces the "Jurassic Park dinosaurs" of the international operatic circuit, while Norman Lebrecht fulminates against the "corporate murder of classical music". In *Prospect* magazine, Geoffrey Wheatcroft is even gloomier: "More worrying than the commercialisation of music is its atrophy." Roger Scruton laments the decline of the British choral tradition, and castigates the melodic poverty and technical mediocrity of contemporary music, popular or classical.

Don't poke fun at the pessimists. They are serious people and so are many of their critics. Like countless others, I learnt more about music from Radio 3 than any other source, so I share the general anxiety about its gradual *dumbing down*. When I last saw George Steiner, for instance, his first question was "What is the story behind Nicholas Kazanov's departure?" Like many others, he felt the No-Fat Controller's presence had been a guarantee of the BBC's commitment to serious music. There may have been grounds for Mr Kenyon's early exit (such as his failure to tackle the BBC orchestras), but the fact that no plausible reasons were offered makes one fear the worst. Professor Steiner is giving this year's Prom Lecture on Sunday, about music in relation to politics. Panjandrums who confuse popularisation with vulgarisation, take note.

But I cannot believe we are entering the endgame of the musical tradition that has evolved continuously for 1,500 years since the emergence of Gregorian chant. We are only just rediscovering the riches of that tradition. Only a generation ago, for instance, nobody knew the music of Hildegard of Bingen, whose 900th anniversary is celebrated by a performance of her thrillingly melodramatic *Ordo Virtutum* at a Prom on September 8. Or take the Panufnik piece we heard

this week: during the period in the 1960s when the BBC ignored the existence of composers whom it did not classify as "Modernists", Panufnik — who had been living here in exile since 1954 — was not broadcast at all. At least now the music establishment is making posthumous amends to him and others, such as Berthold Goldschmidt, who died two years ago after living here in obscurity since the 1930s, and whose *Deux Nocturnes* will receive its world premiere at a Prom on August 26.

The price we pay for such musical serendipity is compositional eclecticism. The composers of our time are bound to be magpies. This week we lost one of the greatest products of this *Zeitgeist*: Alfred Schnittke, a Russian-German-Jewish genius, banned by the Soviet Union and progressively crippled by strokes since 1985. This "poly stylist" nonetheless produced a huge body of work in his 63 years, including an audacious operatic reworking of the Faust legend. In June, shortly before his death, his Ninth Symphony was first performed in Moscow. If composing nine symphonies in the late 20th century is not an affirmation of faith in the classical tradition, I don't know what is.

But if music in general is not doomed, is this very British debate perhaps a symptom of our own decline? Is there an insecurity about the value of our musical culture which causes us to doubt the future of music itself? Which brings me back to Elgar's First Symphony. The *London Evening Standard's* critic predictably sniped at "the old warhorse" this week, thereby drawing on reserves of continental condescension. The Frankfurt philosopher of music, Adorno, called Elgar "a local phenomenon", while Karajan is supposed to have said that he did not conduct Elgar's symphonies because he could conduct first-hand Brahms if he wished. A recent *New Yorker* piece dismissed Elgar with the phrase "bucolic provincialism".

It is easy to forget how extraordinary Elgar's achievement was. He single-handedly propelled Britain back into the mainstream of music, and the 100 performances his *First Symphony* received within a year testify to an enthusiasm that only Benjamin Britten has evoked since. It endures: there are more recordings of Elgar available today than any of his contemporaries, even Mahler. He was equally productive of orchestral, choral and chamber music. Commentaries who knew him did not think him provincial or stuffy: Hans Richter, the leading conductor of the day, thought the First "the greatest symphony of modern times"; while Richard Strauss called him "the first English progressive".

In music, renewal occurs organically or not at all. As Elgar recedes into history, the eclectic present needs to re-examine the British symphonic tradition he inaugurated. If music is threatened by anything, it is our patronising put-down of the past. An England without Elgar would indeed be a land without music.



Philip Howard

Here's to a blunder crop of bloopers

August is the cruelest month for howlers. Overworked examiners are marking scripts; schoolchildren are waiting nervously and parents confidently for their results. And this season's crop of blatant bloopers and flagrant flubs, called howlers because they are so loud, promises a vintage ear [sic, sic, sic, please do not write in with emendations]. Reported to the Classical Association already: "The streets of Pompeii were full of red hot salt-va." Or how about: "Agriculture is a disgusting thing which foreigners do to each other." Or: "Born of the Virgin Mary, decaved of the Holy Ghost."

This month you can learn that Odysseus tricked the Cyclops by pretending that his name was Norman [some mistake here, should be No Man, Ed]. An essay on Aeneid book 1, asserts that "Cupid sat on Dido's knee and shot an arrow into her". A student has translated Horace Odes 3.30, *dum Capitolium cum tacita virgine pontifex*, "while the High Priest scandalises the Capitol with a silent virgin". And these howlers come from the brightest of this year's cohort of students, because they are reading the delightful but bracing subjects of ancient languages.

School howlers have been an old joke from Tom Brunter and Stally to Billy Butler and Molewirth. When some unfortunate construes "The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep" as "Four dirty old men smoking cigars in bed together" we snigger and expect the awful wrath of Mr King or Old Chalky, David Hunt, the urbane master of *Mastermind* who died, last week, had a condescending eye for howlers. I met him when he wrote more in sorrow than in anger to point out howlers and solecisms in *The Times*. And we became dear friends, even though he was never entirely persuaded by my defence that occasional howlers are inevitable in so hasty an art as daily journalism. Headline writers are the microwave poets of the inkly trade. And when, under the lash and up to the wire, they tap in: "Squad helps dog bite victim" or "Milk drinkers turn to powder", they are writing poetry as well as inviting letters from the humourless and the nit-pickers.

Howlers are to be enjoyed as well as deplored and corrected. We enjoy them partly out of Schadenfreude and "There but for the Grace of God go I". We feel smug because we know better than "there is also the hidden sexual innuendo (*fruitful ferra*) that Priam's age had caused him to reach sexual impotence". But man takes an atavistic delight in howlers that goes back to the school playground and the earliest recorded literature. The ambiguities of language are its poetry. In *Language Play*, published next week, David Crystal argues that howlers and other idiosyncratic language are the way we learn to talk, and, pretty well, that God was the first logonaut.

From Aristophanes through Shakespeare to Tom Stoppard, verbal slips and other *lapsus lingue* are part of the fun. They are also part of the poetry. *Finnegans Wake* is a long succession of intricate and clever howlers. "The fushpots of Euston and the hanging gardens of Marylebone" recall after 30 centuries the feshpots of the land of Egypt and the hanging gardens of Babylon. Read *Tristan Shandy*, e. e. cummings danced on streams of sollection, "anyone lived in a pretty how town" (with up so floating munny bells down) / spring summer autumn winter / he sang his didn't he danced his did. But that is also the stuff which makes moving love poetry.

Do not commit deliberate howlers until you can write as well as cummings. When answering examination papers, the prudent student avoids howlers and tries to spell "diarshock" correctly. When writing headlines, the careful sub-editor avoids the *double entendre*, puns and all attempts at jokes. But prudence is not the only linguistic virtue, except for parliamentary draftsmen and other precision artists. It is not even the principal linguistic virtue. So pardon us our howlers, dear David, and other master minds of the touchline and Tonbridge Wells. And enjoy them. But do not cancel your subscriptions. Language is the greatest game of all, as Whigstonian discovered. It is the capacity that distinguishes us from the other animals. And, as with wolves, not the least part of its sport lies in its howlers.

Of humane bondage

Nothing corrupts a journalist quite as much as friendship. Good politicians don't bribe; they make us like them

Just after the Derek Draper "Dollygate" story had broken, I chanced to be at the BBC Television Centre at White City at about eight in the morning, to review the morning papers. Outside the studio is a tiny greenroom and, here, guests awaiting their slot on BBC *Breakfast News* mingle. A kind lady called Mary, a rare humanising presence in the cold world of programme-making, looks after guests.

And there I met the man who had just been interviewed: Derek Draper. He had just flown back from the Continent to face the flak. He looked and sounded as though the whole world had just fallen on his head.

We spoke for ten minutes. And I just felt so sorry for the guy. It was impossible to feel towards him any of the aggression or scorn for which he had briefly become the nation's primary target. All you could feel was sympathy.

Clear-eyed fellow-journalists with a better grip told me later that I was a fool to sympathise. "Draper can talk his way out of anything," they laughed. "He'll turn his disgrace into a niche and end up more influential than when he started." The sceptics were right. But for a few days after meeting Mr Draper I found myself unable to take a lick at him. Sympathy had disabled me as a newspaper columnist.

And let's not be pious about this: it was unprofessional. Point one: Mr Draper did not need my sympathy. Point two: I was a worse columnist as a result. Point three: I was, in a very small way, cheating my own readers by this act of self-censorship. A journalist might be thought to owe regard to the thousands of readers whose acquaintance he will never make, than he does to one rich and noisy individual whom he has met and liked.

Of all the unseen but corrupting influences in journalism and politics, human kindness — friendliness, if you like — is the most corrupting. The webs of friendship, loyalty and acquaintance extend right across the political and media world. Softly, imperceptibly, these relationships warp what we write and gently stay our hands when we choose not to write. I can count on the fingers of two hands those whom I believe to have been bought by money or blackmailed over sex. But it takes even fewer fingers to count that tiny minority of

journalists and politicians who are not significantly constrained in what they do or write by feelings of common decency towards those whom they know and like.

Certainly I am not in that minority — and am the worse a writer for it. Throughout John Major's premiership I would bite my tongue rather than join the chorus of contempt. This was partly because of a settled judgment — to which I hold — that he was a good man doing quite well in atrocious circumstances. But it was also because I know him slightly, and like him. Once or twice he would ask me in for a cup of tea and a chat.

Never once did he ask me to write or not to write a word. He did not need to. I felt flattered and pleased to be consulted and besides, I think the world of Normal and this must surely have helped to confirm me as a Majorite. Doubtless it influenced even my *Times* parliamentary sketches, which gave Mr Major a fairer wind than any of the other papers. Finding myself opposite John's brother, Terry Major-Ball, at a large luncheon, I made the acquaintance of a man of whom all the cruel and funny newspaper gibes are — on a certain level — perfectly true: and yet such a nice man, so fatally trusting and unguarded, yet quite perceptive in his way. I shall never be able to make fun of him myself, now. I wish I had not met him.

I am not exceptional in being wobbly — or flatterable. It is those who are not who are the exceptions. Nothing is therefore more facile than the present media craze for discovering and "revealing" instances of people being "bought" in the world of media, lobbying and politics. If you have to write a cheque to achieve your desired result, you are simply incompetent. If you need to make a "deal" in which an understanding is reached, in conversation or writing, about what will be said or done — and in re-

turn for what — then you are operating at the most primitive and ineffective level; and exposing yourself to horrible risk. Sensible men and women in the British Establishment never operate like this, never become vulnerable to the charge of corruption. They make friends — real friends — and never link favour to favour. They simply oblige each other. They *behave* well. They persuade each other. They listen to each other. Their doors are open to each other. They do not betray each other. None of this is a sin — is it?

For a BBC Radio 5 Live programme last year, *The Politician*, the *Actress and the Bishop*, I met and interviewed — and in some cases got to know quite well — people whose lives had been singed or seared by media "scandal". Tim Yeo (the Tory MP) and Julia Stent, his former mistress; a nice vicar from North Yorkshire and his even nicer mistress; Bishop Roddy Wright's former mistress, Joanna Whibley, and their son, Kevin — all these people, many of them struggling against difficult odds, many of them quite brave, none of them strangers to suffering, turned out to be so damn likeable.

Piers Merchant took me to the bench on which he cuddled a girl (a cuddle was all it was, he told me) and, though I should have judged him a prize prate, he had an utterly winning apparent naivety. I even liked a young man, Paul Stone, the kiss-and-tell former friend of the former MP Jerry Hayes: he just seemed a boy with dreams, anxious to make his way in the world, who had become bitter.

And what a rotten journalist that makes me! Some of these people may have lied; some had betrayed wives, families, constituency chairmen. Some are ridiculous. But on getting to know each, I lost all my appetite to prosecute or even probe. For an interview programme my mother and I

Matthew Parris

are conducting for BBC Radio 4, she and I recently interviewed Barbara Follett, MP. I shall never, again be able to see her, as the press see her, as the "champagne socialist", "millionaire's wife" networker, and progenitor of shoulder-pads for Neil Kinnock's new Labour women. There was so much more to Mrs Follett than that. I shall never be able to write anything horrid about her again in parliamentary sketches. I have little doubt that were I to meet and get to know each one of the 650-odd MPs at Westminster, I should be similarly paralysed as to all but a very few.

A friend and fellow journalist wrote kindly, recently, of an MP whom I believe to be quite an unpleasant person. "Why?" I asked my friend. "He was once kind to me when I was in trouble," my friend told me — and then, slightly shamefacedly, "and he gave me breakfast at the Savoy." I do not judge my friend. I am simply lucky to have avoided the breakfast invitation.

When you join The Parachute Regiment they send you on training and initiation exercises. One of the tasks is to accept and care for a pet white rabbit. The young squaddie has to feed, brush, stroke and comfort his rabbit for a week, and become attached to it. Then he has to shoot it.

In journalist's training colleges, the diploma course examinations should include being given breakfast at the Savoy by an exceptionally kind person, who will afterwards send flowers to one's mother in hospital — or visit one's elderly relative in a nursing home. After this, the examinee will be obliged to stitch this person up in print. The trainee journalist will be given marks for the ruthlessness with which, disregarding the bonds of common decency and human gratitude, he or she tears into their victim, mocking, exposing every weakness and probing every irregularity in his life.

If you can fill each waking hour and minute. With lunches lunched and friendship offered back. Then shed your friend's good name and bin it. And print the lot, my son — you'll be a hack.

Benito's booty

THE exploits of a British pilot who flew secret missions to raid Mussolini's villa at the end of the Second World War have been uncovered. Captain H. Richard Beck looted letters, photographs and other mementoes of the dictator. For 54 years their existence was unknown. But after Beck's recent death, his widow sent his hoard for auction. In 1944-45, he flew to Villa Carpena every other day for two weeks. The villa in Predappio, where Mussolini was born and buried, was occupied by British troops guarding against his return while he was regrouping. Beck snatched treasures each visit, even posing for a snap wearing the dictator's *mütz*, his black tassel hat. Now H. C. Chapman, an auctioneer in Scarborough, has spent weeks cataloguing Beck's trophies, including the schoolbooks that belonged to Mussolini's children, unpublished photographs of the dictator with Clara Petacci, his mistress (right), and a typewriter with a key that reproduces an SS lightning flash.



IS LORD Snowdon fighting to preserve his Sussex village for his new descendant? The former royal, rumoured to have fathered a child, is urging English Heritage to list a red telephone box. Heritage buffs are doubtful so Snowdon is taking pictures to convince BT to leave well alone.

School's out

AFTER our disclosure that the inspiration for the Jennings series



has been found, I have made contact with Diarmaid Jennings at his New Zealand nursing home. This is in contrast to a chump from the *Daily Mail*, who was so keen to follow up my scoop that he burst into the 87-year-old's bedroom, past protesting nurses, to grill him on his Seaford College days with the author Anthony Buckridge.

Diarmaid's family have passed on his reaction to me. He remembers school (including an Anthony) but had not heard of the books and is keen to get to hear them: Mrs McDouall, the owner of the nursing home, is a huge fan and will read them to him. He still seethes about his treatment by the real Pemberton-Oakes, Seaford's Headmaster (or "Archbeak") Dr McNutt, particularly the time he was punished for failing to deliver eggs to McNutt's mother.

heavily built, grey beard, shoulder-length hair, gold earrings, Irish kilt and climbing boots — but some things don't change. Diarmaid, like "Jennings", is fascinated by creepy-crawlies and still enjoys adding unpleasant antipodean beasts (scorpions, bulldog ants) to his collection. "I was better when I was four," he says. "I was closer in size to the insects then." Buckridge is delighted. "It is a fascinating story. It is just a shame that we are probably too old to meet now."

Out of key

POOR Auntie. Has the BBC been shown up in its *A Big Destiny* documentary about Maria Callas (be-



low)? A recording of *Un Bel Di* from *Madam Butterfly* was played. Michael Scott, her biographer and *Spectator* expert, claims it was not sung by the opera star but by a Nina Foresti instead. This is supported by Maria's sister, Jackie, who says that Callas would have been ill when the song was recorded. Makers claim that the song has been verified by the acknowledged expert, John Ardoin, who says Foresti was a pseudonym. BBC2 seems less certain: "We may well have been mistaken."

Bard news

RON DAVIES becomes bard shocker. The Welsh Secretary is to be inducted as a Druidic Bard of Gorsedd in a ceremony dating from 1792, for his "contribution to Welsh culture". He will don the white robes and "headwear of white sheen". The Archdruid will withdraw the Grand Sward three times from its sheath and proclaim: "Is there peace?" If Davies stays silent he will join legends such as Gareth Edwards and Robert Croft, the occasional cricketer, and be pleased by a "young matron" who urges Bards to "drink of the wine of our welcome". Says a Davies crony: "Ron is a Sun King who has risen above party politics. He will be higher than



royally." I thought he spelt "culture" with a "c".

PRODUCERS of *Rogue Trader*, the film about Nick Leeson, may have to consider a new ending, now the jailed banker has cancer. Ewan McGregor (above) is waiting to hear if he will need to reshoot a denouement. Makers insist that the current version is dramatic enough. Others are less certain: "Americans prefer tragic endings. More tear-jerking."

JASPER GERARD



TOO FAITHFUL SERVANT

Campbell's success comes at too high a price

Alastair Campbell is the Prime Minister's messenger. Yesterday Tony Blair's press secretary became the message. His role has provoked a political spat between members of the Commons Select Committee on Public Administration. The issue is whether his activities, and those of other Labour advisers, have blurred the distinction between impartial civil servants and their political masters. The Labour majority gave Mr Campbell a clean bill of health. Conservative and Liberal Democrat members accused Labour MPs of acting as Mr Campbell's "glove-puppets". The Opposition MPs are themselves looking to secure partisan advantage from Mr Campbell's position. But an important issue is at stake. Has the Government's courting of good headlines led it to treat Parliament, and through Parliament the voters, with inadequate respect?

Tory criticism of Mr Campbell's high-handed style betrays jealousy of a man who is so much better at communicating than any of the last Government's spokesmen. But even the envious can be on the side of virtue. The Conservatives and Liberal Democrats are right to highlight Mr Campbell's unique position. The rules of Whitehall are changed to allow Mr Campbell, a political appointee, the power to give orders to impartial civil servants. The man praised in the House of Commons by the Prime Minister for doing "an effective job of attacking the Conservative Party" presides over press officers whose duty should be to the Government, not the Labour Party, and who are paid by the taxpayer, and not the Labour Party.

When he was appointed, Mr Campbell understandably wished to reform a government information machine which had failed to adapt to the modern age. Several press

officers were dismissed — some of whom deserved to go. But their replacement by so many political appointees is worrying. The new appointments were defended on the ground that ministers wanted officials who had experience in how modern media work. Labour might, legitimately, wish to modernise the mechanism by which the Government disseminates news, but modernisation should not be used as a cover for politicisation by stealth.

In opposition, shadow ministers are entitled to manage announcements as they wish. Their press officers are required to be partisan. In government, Parliament should be told first. Government press officers should present and explain policy — not attack the Opposition.

Mr Campbell might point to instances when previous governments have bent the rules. But he cannot wipe the evidence of his own actions from the record. This Government has played fast and loose with the principle of parliamentary scrutiny, and thus the right of the people's elected representatives to check the powerful, in an effort to shape the media agenda.

The announcement to give the Bank of England independence, the Foreign Office mission statement, the ill-fated tobacco sponsorship ban and the proposals for individual savings accounts were all unveiled outside the House of Commons. The Speaker has rebuked ministers several times, telling them that she expects new policy to be announced in the House "so that it can properly be questioned".

Mr Blair's Labour Party has won deserved plaudits for the communication skills which helped it to win a massive parliamentary majority. That majority should not become an excuse for Government to treat Parliament in a cavalier fashion.

SADDAM'S STRATEGY

Iraq wants sanctions lifted with its arsenal intact

It seems at times that Saddam Hussein hopes sheer fatigue will be his ultimate weapon of mass destruction. There is disturbing evidence that he is succeeding. Richard Butler, the chairman of the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq (Unscorn), briefed the UN Security Council yesterday on his latest stand-off with Baghdad. His earlier discussions with Kofi Annan prompted the UN Secretary-General to acknowledge that Iraq was now in clear breach of the agreement that he had personally concluded with Saddam in February. There remains, though, a reluctance to acknowledge that there is a crisis. Any military response appears to have been discounted. Energy will be directed into another diplomatic initiative.

All options should of course be explored. But every inch of diplomatic territory has been surveyed in excruciating detail already. In March 1991 Iraq promised to disclose all aspects of its biological, chemical and nuclear weapons programmes. It has never turned over its full archives. As early as June 1991 Iraq declared that it had fully complied with all relevant UN resolutions and that sanctions against it should be lifted. It pledged then that it had never developed any offensive biological, chemical or nuclear weapons — a stance from which it was obliged to retreat when Unscorn proved otherwise. But Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, has repeated the same incredible claim again this week.

Iraq has consistently courted confrontation in order to frustrate the work of the UN inspectorate. This is at least the eighth occasion on which co-operation with Unscorn has been interrupted. Saddam had reason to believe this time that he had manoeuvred the former Gulf War allies into

a diplomatic corner and would soon escape economic sanctions. Mr Butler has proved more persistent than anticipated. Unscorn is still demanding access to 20 tons of material essential to the production of anthrax and another 250 tons of chemicals that are an integral ingredient of the VX nerve agent. This material could be stored almost anywhere inside Iraq.

For all his bluster, the Iraqi leader knows he needs to strike a bargain. What Saddam wants is a final political deal with the United Nations. He will offer a restoration of collaboration with Unscorn provided that the next request for information on Iraq's activities is the last, and a firm timetable for the elimination of sanctions is established. These conditions might allow Unscorn to collect most of the suspect material that it knows exists within Iraq. It is more likely that only a small proportion will be surrendered and that other, currently unknown, material will never be accounted for. Saddam would be rid of sanctions with his capacity to create regional instability intact.

This would be an invitation for future conflict. It is currently fashionable to argue that sanctions and inspections have "failed". That is to ignore the purpose of present policy. The sanctions regime has not failed because Saddam is still in office or because Iraq remains outside the oil trade. The objective of sanctions is to minimise the threat that Saddam could present to his neighbours. To a considerable degree they have succeeded. Unscorn has discovered and destroyed vast stockpiles of weaponry. It could not have done so had not sanctions forced concessions from Iraq. The United Nations must now decide whether it wants to complete this task or appease Saddam and make a mockery of those efforts.

THE ONCE AND FUTURE KING

Arthur is an archetype as well as an archaeological quest

They seek him here. They seek him there. Those archaeologists seek him everywhere. For fame and fortune, publicity and grants have always awaited the man who draws the sword from the stone. So the spokesman for English Heritage who yesterday described the stone from Tintagel as "the find of a lifetime" was not exaggerating — more than is the profession of such spokesmen. But the discovery will not end the quest for Arthur. Like the quest for the Holy Grail, that is a matter of romance and literature. It is the legend of Britain rather than a subject for DNA fingerprinting or radiocarbon dating.

The slat was found in a drain of the 6th century, which is the right period for an historical Arthur. The inscription can be interpreted as "Arthur". Tintagel is the castle on the north coast of Cornwall, near Camelot, which is one legendary location for Camelot. This ruined castle was built by Earl Richard of Cornwall early in the 13th century. But like English history, his castle stands on older and odder foundations. It is possible to imagine a British warlord leading the resistance to the Anglo-Saxon hordes from there, with the remnants of the Roman heavy cavalry waiting to be translated into medieval knights in shining armour.

But all things are possible with Arthur. That is why his legend endures. For 15 centuries Arthur's story has been embroidered by unscrupulous liars such as Geoffrey of Monmouth, Mark Twain and Hollywood, christianised by Chrétien de Troyes, conflated into an English classic by

Malory, romanticised by Tennyson, and set to music by Lerner and Loewe. Camelot has been located at the hill fort at Cadbury Castle and the Roman legionary camp at Caerleon. Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh is a corruption of the Gaelic "the height of the arrows". But Arthur has been sighted in Dumfriesshire. The Celtic elements in his story point to an origin in Wales or North Britain. But they have been overlaid with layers of medieval romance, Christian symbolism and Disney whimsy.

"Here lies Arthur, once king and future king" was the inscription in Latin said to have been found in the tomb of a giant skeleton at Glastonbury. Beside it was the tomb of a queen with a wisp of golden hair. Medieval archaeologists and official publicists were not so careful with their digs as their modern descendants a millennium later. And all their evidence has been lost. But the story of the once and future king remains the most powerful British legend.

It weaves together many of the strands in the diverse culture of this big green offshore island. It gives Britons a romantic past and an heroic national leader, who can compare with continental conquerors such as Caesar and Charlemagne. The story of the fall of the Round Table suits the national taste for underdogs and heroic defeats. The discovery of the slat inscribed "Arthur" is a wonder. It will do wonders for English Heritage and the Cornish tourist trade. But it will not be the end of the Arthurian story. For that is a national archetype as well as archaeology.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Council v State on housing provision

From the Leader of West Sussex County Council

Sir, The Deputy Prime Minister's letter of August 3 raises questions about his vision for both the planning process and the role of local councils.

He is certainly selective in his quotations from the Environment and Transport Select Committee's conclusions and recommendations. The select committee say:

We are concerned that Development Plans that are under review must continue to have regard to the existing Regional Planning Guidance, including the housing provision figures. The Structure Plans that are currently being prepared should be allowed to reflect the Government's new policy and give less weight to the household projections.

Yet the Secretary of State's principal concern in the challenge brought by West Sussex seems to be to ensure that the predict-and-provide target is met, regardless of the potential damage to the local environment.

The pioneering work by West Sussex County Council in assessing the likely housing requirement for the future was acknowledged in the High Court judgment. It is a pity Mr Prescott is so slow to acknowledge this vision and expertise.

Whilst he is waiting to develop his Government's vision, local authorities such as ours are forced into the straitjacket of outdated policies and deprived of the opportunity to provide vision and leadership to the communities they represent.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM FORSHAW,
Leader,
West Sussex County Council,
Edes House, County Hall,
Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1RQ,
August 5.

From Mrs Penny Tucker

Sir, I am sorry to see John Prescott, a plain-spoken man, being economical with the truth.

Yes, the House of Commons select committee did say that the old DoE's estimate that 4.4 million new households will form between 1991 and 2016 is "the best there is". But it also said that it was of the "utmost importance that Regional Planning Guidance figures do not simply reflect the trend-based figures provided by the household projections" and that it "strongly supports a more bottom-up approach to arriving at housing figures".

I do not myself believe that we can use both top-down and bottom-up figures, unless one set simply acts as a control for the other. What the select committee wants, I think, is to see well researched, properly analysed assessments, forming the basis of locally produced figures.

If these in particular instances proved to differ by even 50 per cent in either direction from the DETR's figures, it wouldn't matter a jot, providing those bottom-up figures were right. After all, the old DoE's figures were always wildly wrong, not least because of the way they were misused. (If you force local authorities to allow at least so many houses to be developed, more houses than predicted are built.)

As for local and regional authorities behaving responsibly, the way to ensure that they do is to oblige them to conduct rigorous assessments of housing need, to express their planning aims clearly in their local and regional plans, and to monitor the outcomes in specified ways, with objectors being allowed to appeal if any of this is not done, or done badly.

Finally, I believe that the select committee should also ask for research to assess the impact that government policies have had on household formation in the past and should seek to establish, with Mr Prescott and others, what the committee really means by "sufficient housing".

Yours faithfully,
PENNY TUCKER,
7 Cedar Terrace,
Thackham's Lane,
Hartley Wintney,
Hampshire RG27 8HW,
August 4.

From Councillor George A. Buckley

Sir, Mr Prescott is somewhat disingenuous in his spirited response to your leading article of July 31.

The policy that he claims to be implementing — development on brownfield sites — is excellent and can be supported both by those who wish to retain the green and pleasant land of rural England and those who seek to prevent the mass migration of high and middle earners from our cities; but, you rightly made clear, such policy is a fantasy because the housing allocations that Mr Prescott enforces are in areas where there are few, if any, brownfield sites.

Mr Prescott is insisting that Rushcliffe, a largely rural area of south Nottinghamshire, will have a 20 per cent increase in population by the year 2011, even though we have only one small brownfield site. The city of Nottingham has many brownfield sites but Mr Prescott will not make funds available for their development.

The Secretary of State talks a very good policy; but it is a fiction.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE A. BUCKLEY,
Leader,
Rushcliffe Borough Council,
Civic Centre, Pavilion Road,
West Bridgford,
Nottingham NG2 5PE,
August 3.

Bank's 'unworkable' economic brief

From Mr Kenneth P. Armitage

Sir, The attack on the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) by John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB union, may be "out of touch" (leading article, August 4). However, I believe that Mr Edmonds was rightly trying to suggest that the MPC suffers from too much theoretical and academic thinking and too little practical experience of industry and commerce in general.

The point is, surely, that an over-valued pound, coupled with interest rates higher than our European neighbours, is undermining competitiveness and placing undue strain on the manufacturing sectors.

As Anthony Harris suggests ("Why the Treasury seems to have lost its memory", *Business*, August 4), we have been in this financial position before, during the stewardship of Howe and Major, and have yet to learn from past mistakes. It would seem that the Chancellor is relying on an economic strategy which may have been drafted some five years ago and on what Mr Harris calls "over-political, under-resourced, and above all young and innocent" policymaking.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH ARMITAGE,
6 Deben Valley Drive,
Kesgrave, Suffolk IP5 2FB,
August 4.

From Miss Jane Hayer-Hames

Sir, Gordon Brown gave the Bank of England independence without warning, without consultation and with no Monetary Policy Committee in place. There were bound to be problems. But the more serious consequence of his actions is that he seems to have given the Bank an unworkable brief. It is charged with maintaining inflation below 2.5 per cent, yet the Bundesbank, which Brown refers to with acclaim, has a brief to control the money supply — an altogether different and more suitable task.

Brown has asked the Bank of England to do an impossible job

Labour's third way 'beyond dogma'

From the Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Sir, I was pleased you agree that this Government has made a "decent start" (leading article, "In search of Blair", August 1), but I can't allow your suggestion that it lacks a clear sense of direction to pass unchallenged. You may not wholly agree with the Government's course. But you are on shaky ground to contend that there isn't one.

Our direction has been shown in 47 pieces of legislation in our first session of Parliament and in 37 major policy statements. They are not bits and pieces, or the products of macro-spin. They are radical measures designed to achieve the task the electorate gave us of building a modern country.

But you are right to recognise that our course is not that dictated by the old Left or the new Right. We are not an old-fashioned state-interventionist party or one saddled with an equally outdated slavish adherence to free markets. That is why we talk of a third way, a new way forward beyond the old dogmas, a new course for the new century.

It is this new sense of direction which has led us to cut corporation tax

Westminster visits

From the Principal Private Secretary to the Lord Chancellor

Sir, Your report today on criticism of "window-dressing" at the Lord Chancellor's newly opened residence does not mention that the works of art and sculpture displayed there come from the stores of the lending institutions, and that very many people are now seeing them for the first time.

You also report the statement by a government spokesman that some 400 people have visited the residence since the twice-weekly public visits started in May, "excluding those attending receptions". May I point out that twelve charities have held receptions in the apartments so far, allowing over 1,000 people to see them and raising thousands of pounds for worthwhile causes in the process.

Yours faithfully,
JENNY ROWE,
Principal Private Secretary to the Lord Chancellor,
House of Lords,
August 3.

Fashion at Bedales

From the Head of Bedales School

Sir, Bill Frost is quite right when he states ("What will they say at Balmora?", *feature*, August 4) that earrings, coloured hair and tongue studs are matters of personal choice at Bedales. Sexual misconduct is not. On this there are very clear rules, as at any responsible school. To imply otherwise, by using the word "cohabitation", is, at best, misleading.

Yours faithfully,
ALISON WILCOCKS,
Head, Bedales School,
Petersfield, Hampshire GU32 2DG.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5045. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Scriptures and the Church's gay issue

From the Right Reverend David Jenkins

Sir, The Lambeth Conference has voted (report and leading article, August 6) to face the moral issues of the 21st century on the basis of an unreflective return to the traditions of the 16th and 17th.

Those who are more moved by fear than full of faith, together with Third World bishops who have not yet faced up to irreversible developments in biblical, historical and scientific criticism, have prevailed.

However, even the Church cannot keep a living and loving God down. We must not allow mistaken fashions for fundamentalisms, whether in Judaism, Christianity or Islam, to force us to atheism. Jesus is too decisive a clue to the reality, risk and love of God, and all human beings are potentially worth far too much, for that.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID JENKINS
(Bishop of Durham, 1984-94),
Ashbourne, Cotesmore,
Co Durham DL12 9PR,
August 6.

From the Reverend Jean Mayland

Sir, Your leader this morning on the vote on the "gay" issue at Canterbury reflects unfairly on the attitude to Scripture of the "liberals", of whom I am proud to be one.

We believe that scientific and other advances have given us an understanding of homosexuality not open to the original writers of Scripture. As such we recognise homosexuals and lesbians as made in the image of God just as fully as those of us who are "straight".

What the Bible asks of heterosexuals is faithfulness and commitment to our partners and that is also what we maintain Scripture asks of our fellow human beings who have different sexual orientation. This being so we believe that, when requested, it would be right to offer prayer and blessing for those entering into a commitment to be faithful.

Promiscuity is unacceptable for heterosexuals as for gays, despite much of the comment reported in your paper.

Yours sincerely,
JEAN M. MAYLAND,
125 Thanet House,
Thanet Street, WCH 9QE,
August 6.

From Mr Anthony Cole

Sir, Dr Paul Oestreicher (letter, August 5) should know from his experience in Amnesty International how fundamentalists not only claim legitimacy for their views, but are ready to shout "foul play" whenever their activities are criticised.

Today's homosexual lobby groups are examples of secular fundamentalism, shouting "homophobia" the moment anyone seeks to criticise their behaviour.

The truth is that Christians are not looking to hound homosexuals, and to suggest that criticising their sexual habits is in any way comparable to the Nazi treatment of such people is not only insulting but ludicrous.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY COLE,
8 The Courtyard,
South Street,
Palmer, Sussex BN1 9PQ,
gcolesuss@aol.com,
August 5.

From Mr Eric Bulley

Sir, The bishops have decided that homosexuality is "incompatible with Scripture".

How then do they justify female priests so clearly forbidden in 1 Corinthians xiv. 34 and 35: "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak: ... it is a shame for women to speak in the church?"

Yours faithfully,
ERIC BULLEY,
Flat 3,
29 Queens Terrace,
Fleetwood, Lancashire FY7 6BT,
August 6.

In the dark

From Mr Arthur Davis

Sir, Commenting on Mr William Hague's colour-blindness (*Body and Mind*, July 30), Dr Thomas Sutcliffe says: "But even if the Leader of the Opposition is unlikely to lose his bearings in the Palace of Westminster, he might not be the ideal navigator of a ship in a murky night."

Is that not exactly his situation?

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR DAVIS,
14 Queen's Gate Gardens,
London SW7 5LY,
July 31.

In sole charge?

From Councillor Tim Ahern

Sir, Gus Macdonald (letters, August 6) has been appointed Scottish Industry Minister yet he is accountable to no one.

Is this the first manifestation of a "totalitarian" government?

Yours faithfully,
TIM AHERN,
5 Campden Hill Square, W8 7LB,
August 6.





COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE August 6: The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited Gilbert Gilkes and Gordon Limited, Kendal, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cumbria (Mr James Cropper).

Birthdays today

The Right Rev David Bentley, Bishop of Gloucester, 63; Mr Greg Chappell, cricketer, 50; Mr Neil Clarke, former chairman, British Coal, 64; Professor H.L. Levin, former Director, London University Institute of Education, 53; Mr Matthew Evans, chairman, Faber and Faber (Publishers), 57; Sir Ian Fraser, former chairman, Lazard Brothers, 75; the Right Rev A.A.K. Graham, former Bishop of Newcastle, 69; Sir Paul Hawkins, former MP, 86; Mr J.H. Jackson, former company secretary, British Gas, 50; Mr Kenneth Kendall, broadcaster, 74; Sir Andrew Large, former chairman, Securities and Investments Board, 56; Mr Owen Luder, former President, Royal Institute of British Architects, 70; Dame Ella Macknight, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 94; Vice-Admiral Sir Hector MacLean, 90; Mr John H.S. Martin, senior partner, Knight Frank, 53; Mr Peter Niven, jockey, 34; Mr Matthew Parris, former MP, author and broadcaster, 49; Mr Nick Ross, broadcaster, 51; Mr Alexei Sayle, comedian, 46; Mr Philip Snow, author, 83; Mr Walter Swinburn, jockey, 37; Sir Richard Sykes, FRC, chairman, Glaxo Wellcome, 56; Mr Allen Thomas, worldwide creative director, J. Walter Thompson, 54; Mr J.A. Young, chairman, Young and Company's Brewery, 77.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, patron, United Kingdom Sailing Academy, will visit the academy in West Cowes at 9.20am; and will open the new Gurnard Sailing Club at Shore Road, Gurnard, at 4.05.

Memorial service

Sir Francis Avery Jones A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Francis Avery Jones, physician, was held yesterday at St Giles Cripplegate, Barbican. The Rev David Rhodes, Honorary Chaplain to the Barbers' Company, officiated. Mr John Missen, Master of the Barbers' Company, read the lesson. Professor James Carley, cousin, read from Gerard's Herbal and Mr John Avery Jones, son, read from John Donne's Devotions. Professor John Lennard-Jones and Dr John Bennett gave appreciations. The Warden, Court of Assistants and Livermen of the Barbers' Company attended. Among others present were: Lady Avery Jones (widow) and other members of the family and friends; representatives of the Central Middlesex Hospital, St Mark's Hospital, King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers, the London Clinic, the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of Surgeons, the King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, the British Medical Association, the Medical Society of London, the Royal Naval Medical Service, Surrey University, the British Digestive Foundation, the British Society of Gastroenterology, the Medical Artists' Association and past colleagues.

Legal appointments

Registrar John Richard Douglas Adams has been appointed a Circuit Judge and Miss Wilhelmina Fiona Shanks has been appointed a District Judge on the South Eastern Circuit.

Wax Chandlers' Company

The following have been installed officers of the Wax Chandlers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Lieutenant-Commander Nicholas Bailey, RN; Upper Warden, Mr Brian Edwin Albert Reynolds; Remit Warden, Mr Richard Bryan Blandford; Deputy Master, Mr Michael Harvey.

Service dinner

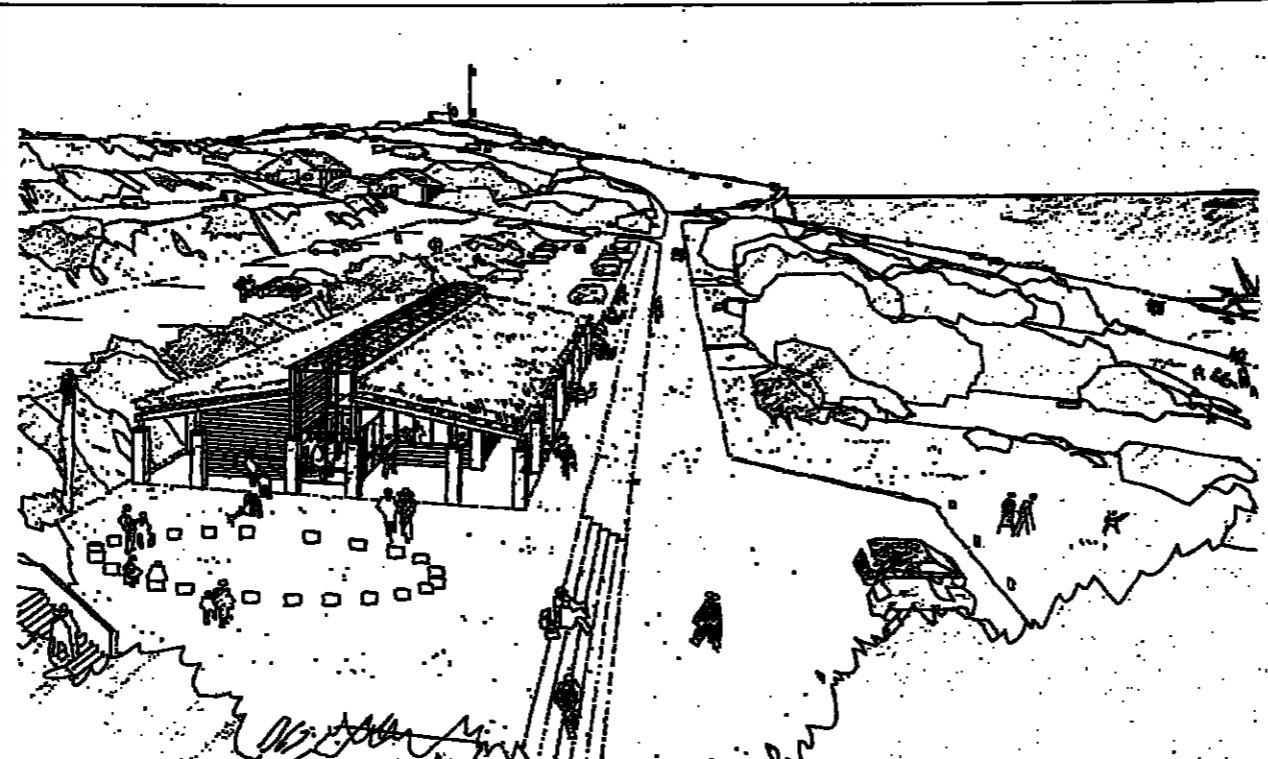
RNR Officers of the Reserve Officers of Defence Courses at the Joint Service Command and Staff College, Bracknell, held a dinner last night at Ramsdale House, Bracknell. Commander M.D. Simpson presided and Brigadier A.C. Welch was the principal speaker.

Latest wills

Irene Constance Dugdale, of Clifton, Bristol, left estate valued at £570,718 net. Brian Edlington, of Beckingham, South Yorkshire, left estate valued at £732,444 net. Beryl Catherine George, of Cadeleigh, Tiverton, Devon, left estate valued at £522,931 net.

College of Estate Management

The Prince of Wales has accepted an invitation to become Patron of the College of Estate Management.



White Cliff visitors get a greener view

PLANS for a visitor centre on top of the White Cliffs of Dover were unveiled yesterday by the National Trust, which owns five and a half miles of the most instantly recognisable coastline in Britain (Michael Hornsby writes).

White Cliff visitors get a greener view

The low, mainly wooden structure, with an unusual grass-covered roof, will be called the Gateway to the White Cliffs and will house a restaurant, lavatories and space for exhibitions on the history of the landscape and its wildlife. It will replace a refreshment kiosk and a lavatory block, facilities described yesterday by Martin Drury, the trust's director-general, as "at the very least inadequate and some would say downright disgraceful".

White Cliff visitors get a greener view

The building is due to open next April, in good time for the dawn of the new millennium, which will break at South Foreland, at the eastern end of the trust-owned cliff-top, at 7.56am on January 1, 2000, the earliest time in Britain. At a presentation at National Trust headquarters in London yesterday, Birkin Howard, of the architects Van Heyningen & Haward, said grass would be grown on the sloping roofs, allowing the building to blend in with the landscape. "The turf will have its own drainage and irrigation system and need periodic mowing," Mr Howard said. "It will be sown with the same type of grasses and flowers, such as orchids, that are found on the cliff-top. It will also provide very good insulation."

Castles of Assassins built to last

Castles of Assassins built to last

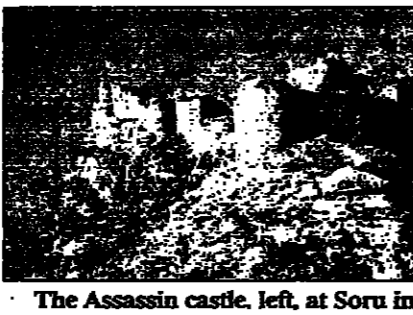
CASTLES built by the Assassins, a medieval Islamic sect based in Iran and Syria, were better strongholds than Crusader fortresses such as Krak des Chevaliers, a British expert has concluded. As a result, while Krak, often cited as the supreme example of Crusader castle building, fell to the Mamluks in 1271 after a siege of only six weeks, the Assassins' castle at Kafk, some 30 miles to the north in Jebel Ansariye, Syria, lasted another two years. "While Krak is a masterpiece, it was relatively simple to build compared with the great fortresses in Iran," said Peter Willey, who has recently renewed field research in both countries. Scholars "may perhaps be too much under the spell of T.E. Lawrence", who wrote an influential treatise on Crusader castles, Mr Willey said.

Castles of Assassins built to last

begin his research in 1959 and published a book on the castles in 1963. It was only on a recent visit that he found the great fortress of Soru, which he described as substantially more complex as a fortification than Krak. "The style of military architecture employed by the Ismailis is well in advance of, say, the Normans of this period. They well understood how to build a castle of great strength, capable of resisting long sieges and very difficult to attack," he said. Soru, which lies about 100 miles east of Tehran, stands on a peak nearly 1,000ft high, with triple defensive walls and round towers every 100 yards above a steep slope to the valley floor. The castle is in good preservation, Mr Willey said, unlike the original stronghold at Alamut, which has been almost destroyed by treasure hunters. Other forts

Castles of Assassins built to last

in the area suggested that a large part of the route between Tehran and Mashhad was controlled by the Assassins. Similar military developments occurred in Khorasan, in eastern Iran, where the castle of Qa in controlled the road from Mashhad to Sistan. A spring was diverted to provide water for the complex, which is about the size of Warwick Castle. "Building these elaborate fortresses demanded a huge supply of manpower, equipment and material, and even quarrying the stone required was a considerable feat," Mr Willey said. "The organisational ability of the Ismailis must have been outstanding; they were a competent, irraginative and far-seeing group, and the utter conviction of their superiority over their enemies provided them with the inner strength which enabled them to complete these tasks so successfully."



The Assassin castle, left, at Soru in Iran, with its triple walls, outdoes Krak des Chevaliers, Syria, in strength.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: John Ayrton Paris, physician, Cambridge, 1785; Frederic William Farrar, writer of school stories, Dean of Canterbury 1895-1903, Bombay, 1831; Sir Granville Bantock, composer, London, 1868; Louis Leakey, archaeologist and anthropologist, Kabete, Kenya, 1903; Ralph Johnson Bunche, diplomat, Nobel Peace laureate 1950, Detroit, 1904. DEATHS: Robert Blake, parliamentarian and admiral, at sea off Plymouth, 1657; Caroline, Queen Consort of King George IV, London, 1821; Joseph Marie Jacquard, silk

Anniversaries today

weaver, Oullins, France, 1834; Aleksandr Blok, Russian poet, 1921; Curbanost Gregorio Ricci, mathematician, 1925; Konstantin Stanislavsky, actor and co-founder of the Moscow Arts Theatre, Moscow, 1938; Sir Rabinadrath Tagore, poet, philosopher, Nobel laureate 1913, Calcutta, 1941. The first recorded UFO was sighted above Basle, Switzerland, 1556. Parliament passed an Act prohibiting the employment of boys as chimney sweeps, 1840. The first British Grand Prix was run at Brooklands, 1926.

PERSONAL COLUMN

WARDEN - On July 31st 1998 to Mrs (Mrs) Margaret Ann (nee) Warren, a daughter, Anna Catherine Elizabeth.

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To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

WARDEN - On July 31st 1998 to Mrs (Mrs) Margaret Ann (nee) Warren, a daughter, Anna Catherine Elizabeth.

PERSONAL advertisement section with various notices and contact information.

OBITUARIES

TODOR ZHIVKOV

Todor Zhivkov, former President of Bulgaria and Secretary-General of the Bulgarian Communist Party, died in Sofia on August 5 aged 86. He was born on September 11, 1911.

When forced to resign his offices in 1989, Todor Zhivkov was the longest serving ruler of any European Communist Party state, the last of the old-style Eastern bloc hardliners. After a whole career in Bulgaria's Communist Party, both in the revolutionary movement and in power, he had emerged as undisputed leader in 1962.

Like many communist politicians, he had no experience of legal opposition, and could hardly have been expected to allow organised opposition to one-party rule. A man of the apparatus by training and temperament, he was not tempted to indulge in radical innovations in domestic or foreign policy. The keynotes of his rule were extremely cautious reforms at home and slavish adherence — unexampled except perhaps in East Germany — to the Soviet alliance abroad; it was both ironic and unsurprising that it should have been events in the Soviet Union that were eventually responsible for his downfall.

Todor Khristov Zhivkov was born into a peasant family living just north of Sofia. After scant formal education, he went to Sofia and began work in the State Printing Office, where he remained for many years. While still in his teens he joined the underground Communist Youth Organisation and in 1932, at the age of 21, the Bulgarian Communist Party. After a few years of political work in party committees in the capital, Zhivkov appears to have been inactive for some five years; but in 1941, when the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union changed the communist view of the Second World War and removed a major political dilemma for Communists everywhere, Zhivkov became one of the leaders of the Sofia party organisation and of the Bulgarian partisan movement. In July 1944 he was made deputy commander of the partisan units in Sofia.

After the Communists seized power in September 1944, Zhivkov continued to rise in the Sofia party organisation. By 1948-49 he was First Secretary of the city party committee and President of the People's Council (Mayor of Sofia), so achieving national prominence. In the years 1948-53, under Vukle Chervenkov's Stalinist regime, Zhivkov — untainted by Titoism, the charge to which so many of Chervenkov's political rivals then fell victim — became a secretary to the Party Central Committee and a candidate member of the Politburo.

In 1954 Chervenkov, following Malenkov's example in the Soviet Union, relinquished the top party post in favour of the premiership, and Zhivkov was appointed to succeed him as First Secretary of the Party Central Committee. Chervenkov's further demotion in the wave of de-Stalinisation in spring 1956 gave Zhivkov the chance to enlarge the base of his power. A series of factional struggles culminated in Chervenkov's expulsion from the

party and the dramatic dismissal of the Prime Minister, Yugov, at the Party Congress in November 1962.

The outcome was that Zhivkov, who wore the colours of a moderate reformer lending off Stalinists, assumed supreme power, combining the offices of First Party Secretary and Prime Minister. In this he was following the Soviet leader Khrushchev, who also took on the top party and government offices, as did most of the other East European Communist leaders. In 1971 Zhivkov moved from the premiership to the presidency of the Council of State; this manoeuvre was copied in practice only that he could expect to be received abroad as head of state.

Zhivkov's espousal in 1958 of the economic "great leap forward" — a notion which he borrowed from Khrushchev, rather than from its originator Mao Zedong — gave a hostage to fortune, for the plan was doomed to failure and had to be greatly scaled down; however, subsequent economic development in Bulgaria under Zhivkov was not only more modest but, for some ten years or so, more successful. Until he was finally ousted in 1989 his power was only once challenged: in April 1965 there was an attempted coup which he overcame, it was said, thanks to information supplied by Soviet Intelligence.

Until the 1980s Zhivkov had seemed adept at the technique of political balancing. His policies of half-hearted economic reform, improving relations with non-communist countries (particularly Turkey) and encouraging foreign tourism were accompanied by renewed emphasis on "socialist idealism" in the arts and by warnings of the dangers of "bourgeois ideology". His cautious rehabilitation of Bulgarian history as a source of national pride (in which he was supported, and possibly prompted, by his daughter Lyudmila) was indeed unlikely — given the tradition of Bulgarian-Russian friendship — to lead to friction with Moscow; Zhivkov did not have to cope with the heritage of hostility which complicated Polish, Hungarian and Romanian relations with the Soviet Union.

In the Sino-Soviet dispute, Zhivkov was firmly on the Soviet side. He was, moreover, ready to take active steps to second his Soviet mentors, even if this was of doubtful value to Bulgaria: not only did he agree to the participation of Bulgarian troops in the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 (from which the Romanians under Ceausescu abstained) but also found occasions to inflame or soothe the Macedonian issue — that perennial irritant in Bulgarian-Yugoslav affairs — in apparent correlation with the worsening or improvement of Soviet relations with Yugoslavia.

Until 1976-77 Zhivkov's policy of unshakeable friendship with Moscow and willing integration in Comecon brought a palpable return: trade on favourable terms (especially in oil) and capital investment which helped to keep the ordinary Bulgarian consumer relatively content with a creeping improvement in the standard of living. In the late 1970s the Soviet Union was to drive a harder bargain on oil, and



Zhivkov at his trial on charges of embezzlement in 1992.

there were muffled complaints about corruption, nepotism and travel restrictions. These were not such as to shake Zhivkov's position, though Politburo changes in 1977 may have indicated some disagreements in the ruling team.

The decade of the 1980s brought difficulties, both personal and political, but at first Zhivkov seemed to be overcoming them. His daughter, whom he had promoted first to chair the Committee for Culture and then (in 1979) to membership of the Politburo, died of a brain haemorrhage in 1981; but her influence in the celebration of historic national festivals (and in the encouragement of folk medicine) survived, and she was accorded something like secular canonisation. A serious illness which Zhivkov suffered in 1982 ended in a full recovery. Contrasts such as arose from the assassination of the BBC man Georgi Markov in 1978, and from the alleged "Bulgarian connection" in the attempt on the life of Pope John Paul II in 1981, were overcome with remarkably little damage to Bulgarian interests.

Relations with Iraq, which had been troubled by the deaths of two Iraqi students in Sofia, were mended by a visit to Baghdad. When communism was challenged in Poland during 1980-81, Zhivkov had no difficulty in showing obedience to Brezhnev, whose political style suited him well. In September 1984 Zhivkov — like the East German leader Erich Honecker — postponed a visit to West Germany at Soviet behest. Meanwhile, at the twelfth Bulgarian Party Congress, in 1981, Zhivkov (like Brezhnev again) altered his title from First Secretary to Secretary-General of the Central Committee, reviving a style discarded in the early de-Stalinisation measures of 1954.

In foreign policy Zhivkov showed no significant independence from the Soviet line. Apart from the usual contracts of a Communist leader with the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact countries, he worked to keep sweet his relations with the Arab Middle Eastern states. He also tried to exploit the triangular relationship with Greece and Turkey, leading to suggestions of a Zhivkov-Papandreou axis. In this, however, he misjudged

the situation: his efforts in 1985 to compel the Turkish minority of half-a-million or more to take Bulgarian surnames provoked a mass movement to emigrate to Turkey. Here, as elsewhere in Eastern Europe, a communist leader was shown to be incapable of dealing with large-scale popular protest if he could not count on armed support by the Soviet Union.

At home, signs of trouble appeared in the mid-1980s. The economy was running into difficulties and there were Soviet grumbles — including a public statement by the Ambassador in Sofia in 1986 — about the poor quality of Bulgarian exports to the Soviet Union. Trying, perhaps without much enthusiasm, to follow Gorbachev's change of line in Moscow, Zhivkov proclaimed a "new ideological climate".

In summer 1987 a Central Committee plenum asserted the need for self-management of collectives and enterprises, an increase in the power of the National Assembly vis-à-vis the Government, "dialogue at all levels" in the process of planning, restructuring the party and more glasnost and freedom to criticise the leadership. A Politburo resolution called for the abolition of official holidays, such as May Day and the anniversary of the revolution, and an end to the celebration of the birthdays of political leaders. In January 1988, at a party conference on perestroika (the Bulgarian version of perestroika), Zhivkov declared that it would have been unthinkable without the Soviet example, though it was not, of course, a slavish copy. All these were, by Bulgarian communist standards, measures — or, at least, words — of a heady radicalism, and it was not altogether surprising that friction in the leadership quickly became evident: two reformist members of the Politburo, and a member of the Central Committee, were dismissed.

Whether this was the defeat of a move to unseat Zhivkov or a manoeuvre by him to put the brakes on a movement which he felt was getting out of hand, the pace of events in Eastern Europe in 1988-89 — the like of which had not been seen in Europe since 1948 — was too much for Zhivkov. As in East Germany and Czechoslovakia, popular discontent brought politics into the street in a way not seen for decades: environmental protest combined with attacks on bureaucracy, privilege and corruption to shake the Communist regime to its foundations.

Already in 1986 an investigation into smuggling and counterfeiting rackets had implicated friends of the late Lyudmila Zhivkova, and Zhivkov's son Vladimir had a reputation as a playboy. Now the family's luxurious and self-indulgent way of life was openly attacked, and they found themselves accused of embezzlement, of owning some thirty houses — and of importing quantities of Quaker Oats from Britain. Towards the end of 1989 events moved swiftly: by December Zhivkov had been dismissed first from the leadership and then from party membership. After the collapse of communism, Zhivkov was arrested and charged with misappropriating state funds — a story on which Julian Barnes based his 1992 novel *The Porcupine*. He was tried, found guilty and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. Saved from jail by poor health, he spent several years under house arrest in his granddaughters' with a small residential suburb of Sofia. His sentence was eventually overturned on appeal, though he remained under further investigation for past crimes. After his release last September, he found a new platform as a member of the Socialist Party which had succeeded the Communists, and made a number of unrepentant public appearances.

His wife and daughter having predeceased him, he is survived by a son.

OSWALD WYND

Oswald Wynd, novelist, died on July 21 aged 85. He was born on July 4, 1913.

OSWALD WYND was two writers: the serious novelist who wrote under his own name, and Gavin Black the thriller writer. He wrote occasionally of Scottish themes, and in doing so has been compared, not absurdly, to Norman Douglas. Generally, however, his writing drew on his own life as a Scot born and brought up in Japan who in the Second World War then fought the Japanese. Taken prisoner while serving with British Intelligence in 1941, he struggled for the rest of his life to reconcile his profound love of Japan's culture with the gratuitous cruelties inflicted by its soldiers on those who fell into their hands. These complex and troubling experiences gave great strength to his serious fiction. And to the Far Eastern thriller novels, which he wrote as Gavin Black and which enjoyed such a vogue from the 1960s onwards, Wynd's background lent an authenticity entirely denied to most of his rivals.

Oswald Morris Wynd was born in the foreigners' quarter of Tokyo, the son of Scottish missionary parents. He had dual nationality, and grew up regarding the country as his home, becoming fluent in its language. His early education was at the American School in Tokyo, but after he finished school (later in America), his parents returned to Scotland, and he continued his education at Edinburgh University.

This was interrupted by the outbreak of war in 1939 and he joined the Scots Guards as a private. His fluent Japanese soon made this seem to be a wasteful employment and, with war threatening in the Far East, he was commissioned into the Intelligence Corps.

He was sent out to Malaya and when the Japanese landings in Thailand and northern Malaya began on December 8, 1941, was attached to the 9th Indian Division. As British and Commonwealth forces fell back in the face of the Japanese onslaught, the 9th Indian bore the brunt of the pressure. It was effectively shattered as a fighting force in the confused battles which took place north of the Johore Strait at the end of February, and many of its units were scattered through-

out the jungle of Malaya's southern tip, where Wynd wandered confusedly for several days before being captured.

He was to spend the next three-and-a-half years in captivity, first in Malaya and later on the Japanese island of Hokkaido. It was a strange sensation for him, returning to the country of his birth and upbringing in such circumstances. He had already been severely interrogated by the Kempeitai (Japan's equivalent of the German Gestapo) in Malaya, and had been threatened with execution as a traitor. Now he was able to do a little, from his knowledge of Japanese psychology and custom, to alleviate the sufferings of

he earned a living for himself writing articles for British and American magazines. In 1961 he launched a successful third phase of a writing career, this time as the thriller-writer Gavin Black. The first of the books of the new genre introduced his hero Paul Harris who was to feature in most of the books and to grow in stature as the series proceeded. A dozen or so of thrillers located in the Far East appeared over the next thirty years.

The Far East remained his basic fictional milieu, but *The Devil Came on Sunday* (1961, an Oswald Wynd novel) was an exploration of the small town society of the Scottish west to which he had returned eight years earlier. It was recognised as having affinities with both *The House with the Green Shutters* and *A Scots Quaver*, in the powerful sense it conveyed of its protagonists' being imprisoned in their society. A few of Gavin Black's novels were also placed in Scottish settings, where Wynd's ear for dialogue and his shrewd characterisation lifted them well above mere provincial pastiche.

Perhaps Oswald Wynd's most powerful performance was *The Ginger Tree* (1977), which drew more closely on his own upbringing than anything else he wrote. It was the story of Mary, a young Scottish girl who, at the turn of the century, sails to China to marry a career diplomat. She horrifies the British community by having an affair with a senior Japanese officer, by whom she becomes pregnant. She is rejected by her husband and forever cut off from her family at home. In the end she is rejected by her lover and parted from her child, but through sheer strength of character she forges a successful, if lonely, life for herself as a businesswoman in Japan.

Written in part epistolary, part journal form, apparently based on "original family papers", *The Ginger Tree* was widely assumed to be a true story, and its protagonist a real woman. It was not, and neither was she. But the story had the compelling clarity of a life told from actual documents.

In Scotland, Wynd lived for a time in the Western Isles before moving to Crail in Fife, where he created a fine garden. His wife Janet survives him; there were no children.



his fellow prisoners. It earned him a mention in dispatches at the end of the war, but he could never bring himself to go back to Japan once the war was over.

He at first went to the United States, where he published his first novel *Black Fountains* in 1948. The story of an American-educated Japanese girl who returns home in 1938 after five years at college in the US to find that her father liberal family have retreated into conservatism in the climate of Japanese territorial expansion, it won him a Doubleday Prize. Neither *The Age is King* (1949), which dealt with his wartime experiences, nor *The Stubborn Flower* (1949) which described life in Tokyo between the great earthquake of September 1923 (which Wynd always regretted not having experienced — he had been on a visit to Scotland at the time) and the end of the war, achieved comparable commercial success.

In 1953 Wynd returned to Scotland, where for a period

GERALD CROASDELL

Gerald Croasdel, OBE, General Secretary of Equity, 1958-73, died on July 15 aged 82. He was born on July 12, 1916.

THE son of a London borough town clerk, Gerald Croasdel had an improbable background for a trade union official — even for one so rarefied as calling as the theatre. Moreover, there was no trace of actor's blood in his own veins. A lawyer by training, he first joined Equity as its legal officer in 1950 but it was almost certainly his politics rather than his legal training (he had practised first as a barrister and then as a solicitor) that recommended him to the then Equity general secretary, Gordon Sandison.

The actors' trade union was at the time — as frequently since — bitterly riven by factions, and the hard Left was temporarily in the ascendant. From that point of view, Gerald Croasdel, who had gone to school at Highgate, had everything going for him: a prewar president of the Cambridge Union and (like Anthony Blunt, Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean) a member of the Apostles, he had gone on to run the youth section of the League of Nations Union, being particularly active on behalf of the Republican cause in the Spanish Civil War.

Croasdel's own military service during the Second World War was spent first as a tank commander and then in the rather more unconventional role of an Army field officer on board an aircraft carrier in the Far East. At the end of the war he was appointed OBE.



Finding that private practice either as a barrister or as a solicitor did not fulfil all his aspirations, he accepted with some relief the job as legal officer of Equity — to which was later added the assistant general secretaryship, joining the union in the year that the Korean War began. By then there was a good deal less tolerance towards communists and fellow-travellers even within the trade union movement than there had been when the Soviet Union was Britain's valued wartime ally; but Croasdel's own reaction to the vicious political infighting that threatened to destroy Equity was perhaps surprising. Well before he took over as general secretary in 1958, following the illness and death of his predecessor, he had resolved that the union could survive only if it concentrated on fighting for those industrial and professional rights behind the assertion of which all members, whatever their political hue, could unite.

This attitude made no difference to his own political views, which remained unapologetically Marxist and left-wing, but in his official capacity he eschewed all partisan stands and ran the risk of appearing just as respectable and sober as the conventional suits he invariably wore. The bureaucratic impression he created, however, made him into a particularly effective negotiator and he enjoyed some substantial successes on behalf of his members — notably with the ITV contractors over fees for recorded (and, indeed, repeat) performances on television in the early 1960s. The BBC later had to fall in line with the new deal for actors which — in the age of videotape — he had successfully put in place.

On his retirement from Equity, well before he was 60, Croasdel became general secretary of the International Federation of Actors, a body with which he had been closely associated ever since the mid-1950s. He remained active within it for a number of years, eventually becoming its general secretary emeritus. He never married.

ON THIS DAY

August 7, 1851

The movement for total abstinence was of sufficient standing in the Victorian age for the meeting to send messages to the Queen and to the House of Commons

TEETOTAL FETE The teetotallers held high festival at the Surrey Zoological Gardens yesterday, where they assembled in great numbers to indulge in the varied amusements afforded by that favourite place of resort. Looking at the wild beasts, hearing their own lions, or orators, declaim on the advantages of thin potations and drinking tea seemed to afford a happy and contented afternoon to these disciples of a single life. The entertainments were so varied that on one or two occasions they rather clashed, and to an unenlightened spectator would have seemed like opposition. But all things with patience come right at last, and under the presidency of Mr Joseph Liesley the orators descended on the inestimable value of total abstinence, and sang encouraging songs on the same point, that without drinking cold water no possible good could arise. The speeches were all of the same character. Some struck into the pathetic, others the comic path; others again took an illustrative method of argument, and

AERONAUTICAL ACCIDENT Tuesday evening witnessed an accident that all but resulted with loss of life to the unhappy female aeronaut engaged,

PERSONAL COLUMN

FLATSHARE, FLIGHTS DIRECTORY, DELTA WORLDWIDE, SYDNEY £531, GENEVA £531, PERTH £531, AUCKLAND £518, BANGKOK £390, HAIL £250, HONG KONG £415, SEOUL £245, SINGAPORE £412, NEW YORK £383

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY, Jetworld, 01476 592095, FARESAVERS, 0171 860 1111, FLIGHTWISE, 01476 560089

FLIGHTSEEKERS, 0171 663 4425, COMBAT STRESS, CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS, The British Kidney Patient Association, 0171 272 8333

PUBLIC NOTICES, LEGAL NOTICES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, EX-SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY

NEWS

Grand jury hears Lewinsky's tale

Monica Lewinsky made her long-awaited appearance as a witness yesterday before the grand jury investigating whether she and President Clinton had a sexual relationship and then lied to cover it up.

Having accepted immunity, she has told prosecutors they did have sexual encounters, contradicting both the President's denial and her own in the Paula Jones case. Ms Lewinsky was expected to provide details of oral sex to the grand jury hearing, which was closed to the public.

Spin doctor dispute worsens

A bitter row over the role of Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's press secretary, erupted with Tory claims that Labour MPs had been "nobbled" by whips to remove any criticism of government spin doctors from a Commons report.

Crop tests to be cut

The Government is planning to speed the approval of genetically modified crops, cutting the number of tests, in the face of a growing campaign of resistance by environmentalists.

Supermarket fashion

It was a day for some of the great names of fashion: Calvin Klein, Versace, Christian Lacroix, Tesco and Asda. Supermarket chains were bringing designer labels down a peg or two.

Butchers' day

One cricketing family had something to celebrate despite England's dismal batting collapse against South Africa in the Test match: the Butchers, father, 44, and son, 25.

Watch the language

Football club chairmen may be inflating the pay packets of their foreign imports, but this generosity does not extend to the interpreters they have to include on their payroll.

Probation overhaul

A radical overhaul of the probation service - which is to be renamed - to rid it of its widely perceived image of being soft on offenders was unveiled by the Government.

Milosevic provocation

President Milosevic risked provoking Western military intervention in Kosovo by refusing observers of the Contact Group access to the sites of alleged atrocities.

'Angel' may be sued

Sally Becker, the aid worker known as the "Angel of Mostar", may be sued by her own relief team for recklessly endangering their lives.

Flood threat for city

Wuhan, an industrial hub of seven million, has been told that the city could be inundated unless citizens mobilise to fight the surging Yangtze.

Radio more but less

More people are tuning into Radio 4 since its controversial new schedule was introduced, but they are listening for less time, it has emerged.

UN criticises Iraq

Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, said that Iraq's latest defiance of UN weapons inspectors violated the agreement over access.

Babies at risk

Babies born within two miles of landfill sites where hazardous waste is dumped are at serious risk of birth defects, researchers have found.

Mother, 70, accused

A Philadelphia woman aged 70 has been charged with murdering eight of her ten children, allegedly suffocating them to death in their infancy.

Camelot's king makes his return

It was only a piece of slate, but for the archaeologists the broken relic was the most precious object they had ever held. The all but illegible inscription on the stone found in the ruins of Tintagel Castle in north Cornwall, long reputed to have been the location of Camelot, is the first tangible evidence that King Arthur may have been a man and not just a myth.



The grand expanse of the east terrace at Windsor Castle, which was opened to the public for the first time yesterday

BUSINESS

Economy: The Bank of England came under fire from industry and unions, despite a Monetary Policy Committee decision to leave rates unchanged.

SPORTS

Cricket: Arsenal face an uphill battle to win the fifth and final Test match against South Africa at Headingley, with it the series, after being dismissed for 230 on the first day.

ARTS

Richard Morrison: The danger is that, with the mythical extra £290 million so loudly trumpeted, hundreds of near-bankrupt arts organisations expect big improvements to come quickly.

ENTERTAINMENT

Cole, lovely! Penny Wark has gone for stunning, hard-wearing and cheap natural flooring, and to the devil with the stains.

Racecourse: Wiggins is vying with Arena Leisure to build the first racecourse to open since Chesham in 1925.

Football: Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, is the Japanese Football Association's top target to manage its national team when Japan jointly hosts the World Cup in 2002.

Swash and buckle: With cinematic rogues back in vogue, the Bologna festival is paying tribute to the greatest of all - the irrepressible Douglas Fairbanks.

Woman in the house: Alison Taylor, who lost her job when she blew the whistle on care home child abusers, has just published her latest novel.

Barclays: Worries about the economy, rising costs linked to monetary union and the millennium bug raised City fears over the prospects for Barclays as it announced its half-year figures.

Athletics: Jonathan Edwards, the triple jump world record-holder, will risk aggravating an ankle injury to pursue a \$1 million top prize in the Golden League.

Thursday pop: The week's new pop album releases reviewed by David Sinclair; plus 4 hero in concert and Caitlin Moran on the pleasures of the personal stereo.

Out of Africa: A cartoon character called Sara is being used to inspire young women in Africa to stand up to male domination.

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 38.4 to close at 5994.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 104.0 to 103.7 after a fall from \$1.6364 to \$1.6325 and from DM2.8994 to DM2.8869.

Selling: Peter Bruce is using his Solent expertise to exert a psychological hold in the competitive Class 4 at Cowes Week.

Play time: Kipling's Jungle Book stories played out in the open air; an all-American cast takes over in Art; and a new talent introduces his Happy Savages.

Chrisey Wisay wealthy: Chris Tarrant, the host of Man O Man and the Capital breakfast DJ, talks to Moira Petty.

Cricket: The Bank of England came under fire from industry and unions, despite a Monetary Policy Committee decision to leave rates unchanged.

Cricket: Arsenal face an uphill battle to win the fifth and final Test match against South Africa at Headingley, with it the series, after being dismissed for 230 on the first day.

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BITER BIT Anne Robinson hits back at critics of Watchdog, her hard-hitting BBC1 programme.

TOP HEART The Crown Jewels as you've never seen them

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,864

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 25 indicating the starting positions for the clues.

- ACROSS
1 Variety magazine welcomes book by one Times journalist (5,3).
6 Ingenious device not even guards see (9).
9 Weight going up and down a little bit with fashion (4,6).
10 Negative result of lack of exercise (6).
11 Frankfurter's ready in a roll, perhaps? (8,4).
13 Barmaid carried in the beer (4).
14 Row about infiltrating secret society somewhere in WI (8).
17 Sky fellow without wife gets depressed (4,4).
18 Fast food (4).
20 Eg. Haydn's work depicted in magazine letter thus (7,5).
23 Transport from Paddington, say (4).

A word search puzzle titled 'HURRICANELAMP' with a grid of letters and a list of words to find.

Latest Road and Weather conditions. UK Weather - All regions 0336 444 910. Includes a table of weather conditions for various regions like London, SE, Central S England, etc.

World City Weather. 153 destinations world wide. 6 day forecasts. Includes a table of weather forecasts for cities like Aberdeen, Anguilla, Antigua, etc.

Car reports by fax. Call from your fax machine, you may have to use a public phone. Includes a table of car reports for various models like Audi, BMW, Mercedes, etc.

Hours of Darkness. Sun sets: 5:33 am, 8:39 pm. Moon sets: 4:43 am, 8:15 pm. Full moon tomorrow: London 8:59 pm to 5:25 am, Edinburgh 8:08 pm to 5:30 am.

Edinburgh & Dundee: cloudy but largely dry with sunshine. Light to moderate SW wind. Max 22C (72F). Includes a table of weather forecasts for various cities like Aberdeen, Glasgow, etc.

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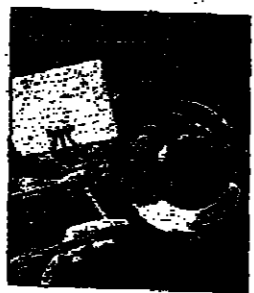
Table with columns for AM, HT, PM, HT, AM, HT, PM, HT. Lists various cities and their weather conditions.

Property developer Wiggins. Proven reliability, backed by a 3 year warranty and a national network of trained installation and maintenance engineers. Call our Cool-Line 0345 32 32 32.

Large vertical advertisement for Wiggins, featuring a woman's face and the text 'Property developer Wiggins'.

THE TIMES

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TODAY



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The Salvation Army ponders a property dilemma
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ARTS
Tribute to the king of the swashbucklers
PAGES 33-36



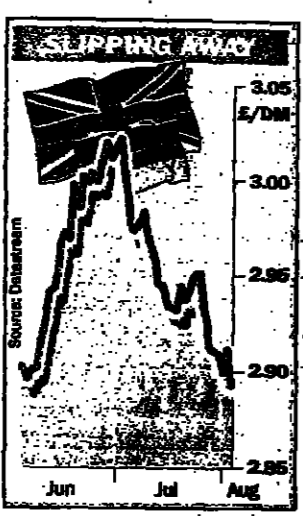
MEDIA
Has Mirror Group pulled the plug on *Sporting Life*?
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TUCKSHOP TO THE RESCUE EDUCATION
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY AUGUST 7 1998

CBI gloomy as industry and unions criticise Bank on borrowing costs Calls grow for a base rate cut



BY ALASDAIR MURRAY AND POLLY NEWTON
THE BANK OF England yesterday came under renewed fire from industry and unions despite leaving interest rates unchanged after its monthly monetary policy meeting. Business groups gave only a token welcome to the decision of the Monetary Policy Committee, claiming that job losses and company failures are set to accelerate unless the Bank moves quickly to cut rates. The decision also brought little cheer to the markets. The FTSE 100 index closed down for the fifth consecutive day at its lowest level since February 13.

The pound also fell on the foreign exchanges to touch a two-month low against the mark. Ian Peters, deputy director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, led the attacks on the MPC, claiming that "industry's confidence in the committee, its remit and the basis of the data it uses to reach its decision has been damaged severely over recent months". He called on Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, to conduct a swift appraisal of the committee's composition and its conduct of monetary policy. Kate Barker, chief economist and adviser to the Confederation of British Industry, gave warning that leaving rates op-

hold would aggravate the problems faced by exporters. "Our key concern is that it increases the risk of an unnecessarily sharp slowdown, which would also hit the service sector," she said. The House of Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee also criticised the Bank and the Government's conduct of economic policy, calling on the Chancellor to take greater account of the impact of the high pound on exporters. The Select Committee, which was reporting on trade relations with Japan, described the high rate of sterling as "a major impediment" to exporters and warned the

Government that business "cannot be expected to be endlessly resilient to the effects of the current value of sterling". Exports of British goods to Japan - the UK's tenth-largest export market - fell 2.1 per cent last year to £4.18 billion. City economists, however, warned that a rate cut remained a distant possibility and that rates could still rise if the pound falls sharply. Jonathan Loynes, UK economist at HSBC, said the fact that the Bank had taken on board the inflationary consequences of the Government's minimum wage and spending plans at its latest meeting indicated that rates have "prob-

ably" peaked. "If the MPC wanted to raise rates today it had a number of perfectly reasonable excuses," he said. However, Paul Mortimer-Lee, UK economist at Paribas, said: "It is too soon to be comfortable that we have seen the top in rates. Of course, another hike would worsen the already apparent growth slowdown, but that is the price for the MPC having dithered and dithered earlier." Fresh evidence that the economic slowdown is rapidly spreading to the high street emerged in the July CBI distributive trades survey which showed retail sales at a three-year low. Economists said the poor weather had again taken

its toll of retailers, although the less volatile quarterly measure also fell to its lowest level since November 1995. Retailers expect the slowdown to continue this month, while a rise in stock levels suggests the summer sales are set to continue for longer than normal. The sharp fall on Wall Street on Monday continued to cast a cloud over shares in London, with the FTSE 100 index closing down 38.4 points at 2,800.2 and barely reacting to the interest rate decision. The pound slipped more than a penny against the mark to DM2.8869. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 104 to 103.7. **Commentary, page 27**

BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100	2,800.2	(-38.4)
Yield	2.96%	
FTSE All Share	2,628.50	(-14.90)
Nikkei	15,876.22	(-115.94)
New York		
Dow Jones	8,523.61	(-23.17)
S&P Composite	1,081.59	(+0.56)
Federal Funds	2.75%	(0.75)
Long Bond	5.68%	(2.087)
Yield	5.68%	(5.67%)
Life King (S)	108.70	(108.38)
Auro (Sep)		
New York	1,632.87	(1,638.55)
London		
S	1,632.27	(1,638.55)
DM	2.8869	(2.8869)
FF	0.6750	(0.7217)
SF	2.4310	(2.4387)
Yen	236.10	(236.08)
£ Index	103.7	(104.0)
London		
DM	1.7680	(1.7705)
FF	1.4833	(1.4859)
SF	144.52	(144.03)
Yen	114.2	(113.9)
£ Index		
London close	2,800.2	(2,837.35)
* denotes midday trading prices		
Tokyo close Yen 144.67		
BREITENBURGER OIL		
Brent 15-day (Oct)	\$12.99	(\$12.90)
SHELL		
London close	\$287.85	(\$287.35)
* denotes midday trading prices		
New minister to realise £750,000		
GUS MACDONALD, the newly appointed Scottish Industry Minister, is set to raise £750,000 from selling his shares in Scottish Media Group after stepping down as its chairman.		
Mr Macdonald's attempt to place the 103,000 shares was yesterday blamed for creating an overhang in the market, forcing shares in the television and newspaper company down a further 8p, to 728p. Mr Macdonald has to resign from his business positions and sell all shareholdings before starting work at the Scottish Office. Market report, page 28		

Reed scraps top jobs in radical shake-up

BY CHRIS AVRES
REED ELSEVIER, the Anglo-Dutch publishing giant which recently failed to merge with rival Wolters Kluwer, yesterday revealed plans for a radical management upheaval which will see the appointment of a new chief executive and the likely departure of its co-chairmen, Herman Bruggink and Nigel Stapleton. The company, which in April spent \$1.65 billion (£990 million) buying two legal publishers in the US, said that it had decided to replace its complex executive management committee with a single chairman and a single chief executive.

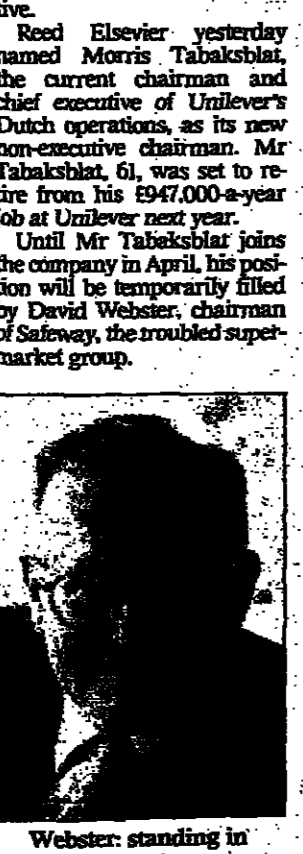
Mr Webster is likely to come under pressure from Safeway shareholders for taking on what could be seen as such a large extra responsibility. However, Mr Stapleton said yesterday: "I don't think we'll be making big demands on his time. I'd be surprised if he had to give more than half a day a week." Unilever yesterday said it could not comment on widespread speculation that it would appoint Anthony Burgmans, head of its European ice cream and frozen foods division, as Mr Tabakshat's replacement. Both Mr Stapleton and Mr Bruggink said yesterday they would not apply for the position of chief executive. Candidates for the position have yet to be found, they said. Both cited personal reasons for not wanting the job. "This is not the first time that there have been problems in the management structure of the Anglo-Dutch group since its formation through the merger of Reed International and Elsevier." Sir Peter Davis, who was chairman of Reed at the time of the merger, was ousted in a management coup, leaving with a pay-off of more than £500,000. He is now chief executive of Prudential Corporation. The company also yesterday reported a 1 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £413 million, blamed partly on the strength of sterling, and 7 per cent rise in sales to £1.6 billion. The companies declare separate dividends in the Netherlands and the UK. The Dutch dividend is unchanged at £12.09 guineas while the UK dividend increases 5 per cent to 4.6p. **Commentary, page 27**



Mark Moody Stuart, Shell chairman, said low oil prices were forcing it to cut back on its investment programme

Shell plans derailed by low prices

BY CARL MORTISHED
SHELL is being forced to trim its investment programme as low oil prices and Asian turmoil derail its ambitions to improve profitability. The oil company yesterday announced a 20 per cent fall in first-half earnings to \$3.48 billion (£2.1 billion). Shell could cut investment by several billion from a budgeted \$17 billion for the year. It is aiming for more asset swaps, such as the deal with Occidental. It confirmed it was seeking a downstream joint venture in Europe. Mark Moody Stuart, chairman, poured cold water on speculation that the company would take a stake in Gazprom, to be sold by the Russian Government. Shell revealed a half-year return on capital of 10 per cent, adrift from its target of 12 per cent for the year. It said that the collapse in demand in Asia was sending surplus oil products to Western markets. **Tempus page 28**



Webster: standing in

Mr Webster is likely to come under pressure from Safeway shareholders for taking on what could be seen as such a large extra responsibility. However, Mr Stapleton said yesterday: "I don't think we'll be making big demands on his time. I'd be surprised if he had to give more than half a day a week." Unilever yesterday said it could not comment on widespread speculation that it would appoint Anthony Burgmans, head of its European ice cream and frozen foods division, as Mr Tabakshat's replacement. Both Mr Stapleton and Mr Bruggink said yesterday they would not apply for the position of chief executive. Candidates for the position have yet to be found, they said. Both cited personal reasons for not wanting the job. "This is not the first time that there have been problems in the management structure of the Anglo-Dutch group since its formation through the merger of Reed International and Elsevier." Sir Peter Davis, who was chairman of Reed at the time of the merger, was ousted in a management coup, leaving with a pay-off of more than £500,000. He is now chief executive of Prudential Corporation. The company also yesterday reported a 1 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £413 million, blamed partly on the strength of sterling, and 7 per cent rise in sales to £1.6 billion. The companies declare separate dividends in the Netherlands and the UK. The Dutch dividend is unchanged at £12.09 guineas while the UK dividend increases 5 per cent to 4.6p. **Commentary, page 27**

RSA profit under the weather

FLOODING in the UK, ice storms in Canada, the El Niño effect in Peru and storms in Australia have taken a £14 million toll on the half-year profits of Royal & SunAlliance (Marianne Curphey writes). The results came against a background of weather experts' forecasts that this year's hurricane season will be particularly active. Bob Mendelsohn, chief executive, said he would announce details of RSA's surplus capital at the full-year results next year. Analysts calculate there is £2.6 billion of surplus. Pre-tax profit fell from £556 million to £437 million and earnings per share fell from 23.5p to 14.5p. The interim dividend increased to 7.8p from 7.15p and shareholders' funds at June 30 were £7.7 billion. **Tempus page 28**

Barclays hit by fears over EMU and debt

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT
WORRIES about the economy and rising costs linked with monetary union and the millennium bug raised City fears over the prospects for Barclays as it announced its half-year figures yesterday. Shares in Barclays lost 49p to close at £16.53 as brokers forecast a sharp rise in provisions for bad debts. The bank was not helped by broker recommendations that investors should switch to NatWest. Pre-tax profits, up 1.4 per cent to £1.29 billion, were held back by a series of one-off items at group level and investment for the euro and the millennium. Underlying business, however, was strong, with three of the four core businesses reporting a 10 per cent increase in operating profits. Operating expenses, excluding BZW, the equities and corporate advisory business sold last year, rose 6 per cent to £2.36 billion in the first six months. Martin Taylor, chief executive, said costs would be 4.5 per cent higher over the year as a whole. The costs include the bank's investment in euro and Year 2000 measures, which totalled £60 million during the first half. Provisions for bad and doubtful debts rose year-on-year by 43 per cent to £129 million. Mr Taylor said the bank was also building up substantial excess capital, raising the prospect of a new and possibly bigger tranche of buybacks after the abolition of advance corporation tax in April 1999. All of the bank's businesses showed a profit. Retail financial services, the biggest of the Barclays divisions, reported a 10 per cent improvement in operating profits to £732 million. Corporate banking contributed £535 million, an increase of 10 per cent, while Barclays Capital, the investment banking arm, matched the rise, chipping in £159 million. Barclays Global Investors reported a 4 per cent rise in operating profits to £29 million. Barclays said it would pay an interim dividend of 15.5p, an increase of 15 per cent, on October 7. Earnings per share slipped from 59.2p to 58.4p, but rose to 60.1p if BZW, the former equities business, is excluded. **Tempus, page 28**

Property developer hopes to attract City punters to proposed London course Wiggins gambles on £100m racing plan

BY DOMINIC WALSHE
CITY dealers could soon be heading straight from their trading screens to the racecourse on the Tube under a £100 million plan unveiled yesterday by Wiggins Group, the property developer. Wiggins, which almost collapsed during the last recession, is vying with Arena Leisure in the battle to build the first new racecourse since Chesham opened in 1925. It has submitted proposals to the British Horseracing Board (BHB) for a development at Fairlop Waters, on the eastern outskirts of London.

The 320-acre site, close to Fairlop and Barking. Underground stations, would provide three separate tracks, including an all-weather facility and floodlights. The estimated £100 million-plus development also boasts hotels, restaurants and a leisure complex. The scheme puts Wiggins up against Arena Leisure, the quoted operator of Lingfield Park racecourse, in the contest to provide a new course in the South-East. Arena has expressed a desire to develop a floodlit track east of London, possibly in Thurrock, Essex. Geoff Lansbury, the Wiggins director responsible for the project, said the aim was to create "a truly City racecourse" offering entertain-

ment and sponsorship opportunities to the City and West End business markets. Subject to planning approval, work could begin next year, with racing starting in autumn 2000. But there are several other hurdles to overcome, not least the issue of securing guaranteed fixtures from the BHB, which controls the 1,200 annual racing fixtures at the UK's 59 racecourses. Last year, the board refused to grant fixtures to a planned racecourse in South Wales, although all eyes are on a review of its policy on new courses, due next month. The only other option for Wiggins would be to try to buy fixtures from other operators.

For Wiggins, the development is just the latest in a series of ambitious schemes since it was rescued from the brink of collapse in 1993 by Oliver Iny, the property entrepreneur who is still chief executive. Last year, Wiggins acquired the civilian rights at RAF Manston, the Battle of Britain airfield where the bouncing bomb was developed, and promptly renamed it Kent International Airport. And in Liverpool, the company is formulating plans to construct the tallest tower block in the UK. One City source also suggested that Wiggins was considering a bid for another quoted property group.

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Futures exchanges heading for merger

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

THE world's two biggest futures exchanges, both based in Chicago, yesterday appeared headed for a merger as talks of a formal partnership emerged.

The Chicago Board of Trade and its younger futures sibling, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, said their boards had been talking for about ten days on joining forces to offer new methods of trading.

The CBOT, formed in 1848 by 82 merchants who wanted a more orderly way of trading agricultural products, is on track for a record number of trades this year. The CME, which emerged from the Butter and Egg Board in 1919, has slipped recently as the calm climate for US interest rates has quieted enthusiasm for its key contracts, Eurodollar futures.

The price of a seat on either exchange has plummeted in recent years amid fears that computer trading would negate the need for the physical trading floors. The value of a seat on the CME peaked at \$925,000 (£567,000) in 1994, but fell to \$251,000 this week.

The CME's greatest strength is in Eurodollar contracts, which were first traded in 1981. Despite its history as an agricultural futures market the CME is more focused on shortly dated financial futures.

The CBOT was the first exchange to deal in US treasury bond futures, in 1977.

Zeneca's progress hit by modified crops in US

By CARL MORTSHED

VOLATILE currencies in Europe and Asia and the advance of genetically modified crops in the US are hindering profits growth at Zeneca.

First-half pre-tax profits of the drugs and agrochemical group fell 2 per cent, to £669 million, after an £81 million currency hit to operating profit. The company is now predicting a currency impact of £102 million for the full year.

Zeneca's agrochemical business is suffering from Monsanto's success in promoting its herbicide-resistant soya in the US. Zeneca's agrochemical sales rose 5 per cent overall, mainly because of the success of its new fungicide Amistar.

However, Zeneca's herbicide sales fell in the first half, because of drought in Asia and also the huge increase in planting of genetically modified soya crops in the US. Monsanto's Roundup Ready soybeans now account for a quarter of soya planted in the US. The use of Monsanto's soya, which is resistant to its proprietary herbicide, Roundup, is affecting sales of Zeneca's own herbicides, Fusilade and Flex, which fell 11 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively.

The only agrochemical products achieving first-half growth were fungicides. Sales of Amistar, formally launched just over a year ago and applicable to everything from cereal crops to golf courses, reached £120 million.

Pharmaceutical sales were up 9 per cent to £1.3 billion,



Sir David Barnes, chief executive of Zeneca, unveiling a slip in first-half profits yesterday

after a 6 per cent currency hit, with the main drive coming from the US, where sales grew 24 per cent. Sales in Japan and Germany fell because of flat volumes and price pressure.

Sir David Barnes, chief executive, said that he expected rapid approval from US regulatory authorities for use of Nolvadex, a cancer treatment drug, as a breast cancer prevention treatment, after recent US clinical trials. The trials showed that women taking the drug were 45 per cent less likely to develop cancer. Sir David was scornful of British studies that failed to confirm the research.

Zeneca is trying to renew its US patent on Nolvadex, which ends in 2002, but it is unlikely to pursue its claims for the drug in Europe, where it is known as tamoxifen and is already a generic product.

Sir David said a quarter of pharma sales were drugs launched since 1995, but accepted that growth would slow after patents on Zestril, a heart drug, and Nolvadex end. An interim dividend of 14p (13.5p) is due on November 2, earnings before exceptional items were again 47.3p.

Telewest to offer quick Internet connection

By CHRIS AVRES

TELEWEST, the UK cable operator, yesterday said it would be able to connect its customers to the Internet at up to 100 times the speed of conventional phone lines by the first quarter of next year and added that it would seek to form joint ventures with both rivals and media companies to "maximise this opportunity".

The company, which is set to become the UK's largest cable operator after its acquisitions of General Cable, Birmingham Cable and Cable London, aims to steal the market for Internet traffic from traditional telephone providers.

It also revealed that its digital television services would be launched next year - possibly several months behind BSkyB, the satellite operator 40 per cent owned by News International, parent company of The Times.

The services are also likely to be lagging behind ONdigital, BSkyB's terrestrial competitor. Losses at Telewest remained unchanged for the six months to June 30 at £42 million, while sales rose 24.5 per cent from £181 million to £226 million.

Losses per share remained unchanged at 10p. Telewest said it had attracted almost 15 per cent more television customers in the quarter ending in June from 560,000 to 642,000. Residential telephone customers rose 18 per cent, while business telephone customers rose 41 per cent.

Pensions split 'may impoverish elderly'

PROPOSALS to split pensions on divorce could lead to poverty in old age for thousands unless the Inland Revenue is prepared to compromise. The National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) argues that changes must be made to the Revenue's maximum pension contribution and payout rules. Otherwise, it warns, "some people will end up with inadequate pensions, which could lead to dependence on the state".

The NAPF is one of the interested parties commenting on the Department of Social Security consultative paper on pensions splitting before today's deadline for submissions. The paper aims to give a better deal to wives without pensions of their own whose marriages end in middle age. At present, they have no automatic right to a share in their spouse's pension, although they can be awarded a share at the time of his retirement. Organisations making submissions, including Scottish Equitable, the insurance company, and William Mercer, the actuarial firm, support the proposals but believe that the Revenue must restrict the maximum benefit limits restricting the amount of pension paid. Under the splitting proposals, although a pension has been divided up, the Revenue would ignore this when calculating the payout limits, which are based on salary and length of service. For some, this could result in the loss of 50 per cent of more of their pension entitlement.

Shake-up at Dorling

ROD HARE, managing director of Dorling Kindersley, is to resign from the publishing group with compensation worth about £280,000. His resignation was revealed yesterday in a management upheaval that will see Peter Kindersley, chairman and chief executive, concentrate on his role as chairman. James Middlehurst, managing director of Britannia Music, will replace Mr Kindersley as chief executive. His appointment put Mr Hare, 37, out of a job. Shares dived from a high of 645p in 1996 to a low of 196p in December last year and remained unchanged at 216p yesterday.

Wyevale blooming

SHARES in Wyevale Garden Centres rose from 237p to 253p after the company said that it believed that a very poor first-half season experienced by garden centres will result in significant acquisition opportunities next year as a result of the small independent operators deciding to sell. Wyevale also revealed that adjusted pre-tax profits rose by 9.1 per cent to £7.18 million in the half year to the end of June on sales that rose 19 per cent to £42 million. Adjusted earnings rose 9.5 per cent to 12.7p and the half-year dividend rose 10.1 per cent to 4.57p.

MGM explores merger

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

MGM, the struggling Hollywood film studio famous for its James Bond movies and a library of classics, is looking for merger partners to avert its financial demise.

MGM yesterday admitted that it was in preliminary talks with a range of potential partners who could help it to achieve its goal of becoming a global entertainment company. No possible suitors were immediately evident.

The studio, which has not made a profit in a decade, has been hobbled by ownership changes and years of neglect. The billionaire Kirk Kerkorian's Tracinda Corp and the Australian Seven television network bought MGM in 1996, and floated part of it last year to help to pay off its huge debts.

MGM said: "The company has entered into informal discussions with unidentified companies regarding possible business combinations."

The company also scrapped its television series development business to concentrate on projects in production.

The company, once pre-eminent in films through association with classics such as *Gone with the Wind*, now relies largely on its library of old stock for income and is heavily dependent on the Bond series.

Getty adds to library

GETTY IMAGES, the media group that owns the Hulton Getty, Tony Stone, Allsport and PhotoDisc picture libraries, has added to its portfolio with the purchase of Imageways. The Los Angeles-based operation owns more than 200 new-reel titles as well as cartoon images from Warner Brothers and Paramount Studios. The price was not disclosed. Getty did reveal, however, that its second-quarter earnings before interest and tax rose 80 per cent to \$8.4 million (£5.2 million). This was after incurring restructuring and integration charges of \$9.9 million in the three months to June 30.

Robert Walters ahead

ROBERT WALTERS, the recruitment consultancy, raised pre-tax profits by 26 per cent to £4.1 million in the six months to the end of June on sales up 95 per cent to £72 million. Earnings rose 25 per cent to 11p, with the half-year dividend rising from 1.4p to 1.7p. Robert Walters, chief executive, said: "Trading throughout the business continues to be extremely buoyant, as these results demonstrate. Of particular importance is the performance of resource solutions." Shares fell 24p to 346p. The group has signed 27 outsourcing agreements against 12 last year.

Shire shares on slide

SHARES in Shire Pharmaceuticals fell another 100p to 2934p yesterday after the company revealed that the explosion at its Arenol supplier operation in America earlier this week will cut sales by at least \$21 million (£13 million). Shire said this was the equivalent of two months' sales. Shire said the worst-case scenario was that trading could be halted for up to a year. The explosion halted production of active ingredients for two of its drugs Adderall and DextroStat. The two drugs contributed more than 60 per cent of revenue in Shire's last half-year report.

Nicholson appointed

COOKSON, the materials technology group, has appointed Sir Bryan Nicholson as chairman with effect from October 1. He is to join the board as a non-executive director on September 1. Sir Bryan, 66, is currently chairman of Bupa, the private healthcare group, and is a non-executive director of Lucas and GKN. Previously he was chairman and chief executive of the Post Office, president of the Confederation of British Industry and chairman of the Manpower Services Commission. Sir Bryan succeeds Sir Robert Malpas, who joined Cookson in 1991. Shares in Cookson rose 3p to 173p.

Sell-off at McKechnie

MCKECHNIE, the engineering group, has sold its Australian and New Zealand holding companies to a special purposes management buyout vehicle, MCK Holdings, for £65.1 million cash. The transaction will lead to an exceptional charge of about £9 million, and a consequent increase in shareholders' funds of £13.7 million. McKechnie intends to use the proceeds to finance debt and develop its chosen areas of specialist products and engineered plastics. The businesses sold to MCK made a pre-tax profit for the year ended July 31 1997 of £12.2 million on sales of £142.2 million.

Renault sales surge

RENAULT, the French carmaker, reported a 22 per cent surge in half-year sales to £121.7 billion (£12.5 billion). Renault said: "This gain was due to higher sales volumes, driven by the success of the Megane, the Clio II and the car and light commercial vehicle versions of the Kangoo." Industry analysts had expected strong half-year sales and several said they would boost their earnings estimates. Renault's sales increase was steeper than the 17 per cent rise reported by Volkswagen, the European leader, for the first half of 1998 and the 15 per cent gain announced by Peugeot Citroen.

Elementis to sell food subsidiary

By ADAM JONES

ELEMENTIS, the chemicals group formerly known as Harrisons & Crosfield, said yesterday that it hopes to sell its last food and agriculture business, BOCM Pauls, by the end of the year.

The subsidiary, which has been valued at about £65 million, was hit by general difficulties in UK agriculture in the first half of 1997, with profits falling from £1.2 million to £0.9 million.

Overall interim profits before tax for the group were £19.5 million, down from £38.6 million. The difference is mainly because of the smaller size of the restructured group and an exceptional £11.5 million disposal loss. Earnings per share before goodwill amortisation and exceptional losses rose from 4.4p to 5.8p. Sales fell to £599.1 million (£937.6 million).

Bill Turcan, chief executive, said a new £9 million factory in China that treats iron oxides for paint or pigment use was suffering from a 60 per cent fall in orders from the region. It also supplies Western markets and Mr Turcan maintained that it is a success. An interim dividend of 2p will be paid as a foreign income dividend on November 10.

	Share	Bank	Share	Bank	
	Price	Gain	Price	Gain	
Australia \$	2.79	2.61	Japan Yen	280.22	232.89
Austria Sch	25.20	19.64	Netherlands Gld	0.670	0.611
Belgium F	62.67	57.71	New Zealand \$	3.444	3.440
Canada \$	2.607	2.419	Norway Kr	12.29	11.99
Denmark Dkr	12.92	12.63	Portugal Esc	327.20	257.65
France FF	0.0622	0.0214	S.Africa Rand	31.79	30.95
Germany DM	3.068	2.926	Spain Ptas	235.41	227.82
Greece Dr	504	425	Sweden Kr	13.60	12.70
Hong Kong \$	15.41	12.27	Switzerland Fr	2.880	2.882
India Rupee	1.25	1.08	Taiwan N.T.	498.01	426.35
Ireland P	1.202	1.134	USA \$	1.708	1.565
Italy Lira	200	173			

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Finelist S to merge

Crest sued

Surviving with split personality

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Morris Tabakshat will soon become chairman of Reed International plc, chairman of Reed Elsevier plc and chairman of the supervisory board of Elsevier NV. Only someone such as Mr. Tabakshat, who will be leaving Unilever to take on his new portfolio of titles, would appreciate the relative simplicity of the new structure being adopted by the Reed Elsevier group.

After being together, yet apart, since their merger in 1993, the component parts of Reed Elsevier have decided that they should move a little closer by adopting a single management structure with one chairman and one chief executive. It makes sense, doesn't it. Unilever has been operating its own complicated dual-management system for 70 years and has got used to working why the Anglo-Dutch alliance should have to follow that example.

If true simplicity were the aim, Mr. Tabakshat would be taking on one job and, not three but, while one management structure is achievable, the logic of turning Reed Elsevier into a single company still runs up against barriers, both emotional and fiscal. If the UK were to triumph, and the company concentrate its base here, the benefits of the more generous fiscal regime in Holland would be lost. If, on the other hand, the single company was NV rather than plc, then, the

Reed contingent believes, some UK investors would be disaffected. They like to have the strength of a FTSE 100 around them.

UK investors still regard Europe as foreign. The dawn of the single currency, with the UK wisely refusing to play, will not change that. Investors may, however, be more ready to shed their xenophobia as capital markets come together, and the linking of the Frankfurt and London stock exchanges is a step towards that. For the time being, however, Reed Elsevier will retain its split personality. Soon, however, it will lose the services of Nigel Stapleton whose firm grip has helped to transform the business. It is not so long ago that Reed made wallpaper and paints and was not the focused information business it is today.

Stapleton is modestly saying that he is not the man to take the group forward. That he says is for a marketing whizz and, while he has broadened his skills far beyond the mere financial, he does not feel ready to settle down to a crash course on that particular business technique.

After a career divided between Unilever and Reed, he fancies one last big job, presumably with a company that, just for a

change, does not have dual nationality. But the complications of coping with an Anglo-Dutch arrangement hold no fears for David Webster. The Safeway chairman is bravely stepping in to fill the gap until Mr. Tabakshat arrives. Mr. Webster is presumably confident that Safeway's troubles are over, although he might have been well advised to wait until the evidence was clearer before taking on such a leading, if only temporary, role.

Eddie and the Steadies

Business at the Confederation of British Industry were so keen for the Bank of England's monetary policy committee to know how bad things are on the high street that they smuggled a preview of the July distributive trades survey into the Bank ahead of time. If Eddie and the Steadies had taken it seriously, they would have cut base

rates immediately. Instead, a minority is still thought to have favoured a rise.

A net 6 per cent reporting higher sales than a year ago is not obviously a cause for alarm. But the speed at which consumer confidence and sales growth are plunging certainly is. For most of the two years until June, a net 30 per cent or more reported higher monthly sales than a year before.

We know why the Bank did not see the light. Dark clouds spewed rain for most of June and July. These bizarre short-term factors confuse the issue, helping to boost grocery sales, even though most retail sectors were in decline, and to knock carpets and DIY without much downturn in housebuying. All that can yet be said with confidence is that there was no rebound in July from the washout in June.

What a pity that the one-armed rate-setters at the MPC failed to take such a sanguine view of figures for earnings growth in the private sector, when these were

patently distorted by loadsamoney City bonuses.

There is some case for thinking that the figures have been dragged up by relatively few sectors, and that most of the economy is suffering no pay pressure. If the Steadies had been steeper and adopted a wait-and-see policy, manufacturers would be losing less and inward investment would not be turning sour as fast as jersey milk in the tropics.

More critics, along perhaps with the Steadies themselves, are gradually realising that the MPC has been set up as a patsy. The Steadies are to be held responsible for the two-tier economy and the distortions that arise when the Chancellor's denies his own duty of fiscal management.

That is more reason for the MPC to weigh all the evidence it claims to consider rather more carefully. If yesterday's vote turns out to have been narrowly against a rise in rates, the Steadies need to demonstrate that they are doing their homework prop-

erly. Business will look at next week's Inflation Report to make sure that the Bank has given due weight to work from the London Business School, which questions manufacturing employment, output and hence productivity figures, on which the Bank's rate policy has relied perhaps too much already.

One of Life's little problems

Whoops, there goes another £114 million. Sun Life of Canada must be regretting the day in 1994 when it shelled out £240 million for Confederation Life. The cost of compensating for Confederation's enthusiastic selling of personal pensions to those who would have been better off without them has already faced Sun Life with a bill for £100 million. Now comes an even bigger hit in the form of a provision to cover the costs of meeting guarantees on pension annuities sold by Confederation Life. No mis-selling here, just misjudging. The investors bought wisely but Confederation Life had sold on some rather ill-founded assumptions about how interest rates would move. The

proud new owners of the business will have to find extra funds to meet the guarantees.

Sun Life of Canada is big enough to survive such bills, although one wonders how happy the company is over the extent of the due diligence carried out on its behalf before it bought Confederation Life's UK business. The rest of the operation was far from healthy, hence it is the receivers of the Canadian parent that are now being sued by Sun Life in an attempt to recoup at least some of the mis-selling bill.

For a business that is contemplating flotation, as Sun Life is, the aggravation is unhelpful. But then, slipping up over whether something is an asset or a liability, as the company did in its DTI returns, does not exactly inspire confidence.

Fair trade

AS THE Office of Fair Trading investigates the power of the supermarkets, it might study the latest battle over designer brands. Asda has flouted the European Court and bought a load of CK One fragrance in the US to sell here. But, despite the Calvin Klein glamour, CK One is made by the same people as Birdseye fish fingers, namely Unilever. And Unilever is one of Asda's biggest suppliers. Unilever will not sue Asda over the unauthorised sales; it wants to keep the authorised ones.

Finelist shelves plans to merge with Partco

By ADAM JONES

FINELIST, the car parts group, yesterday abandoned its plan to merge with Partco, its UK rival, after a stinging critique of its strategy.

The counter-attack from Partco's board would have left a hostile bid as the only way of bringing the companies together.

Finelist, which has grown from a small management buyout to a £233 million concern under Chris Swan, its chairman and managing director, had given Partco an outline proposal for a merger three weeks ago.

The share-for-share exchange would have given Finelist about 55 per cent of the combined group and Partco 45 per cent.

Yesterday, Partco issued an acidic response to the proposal

that attacked Finelist's acquisition strategy.

It said: "The scale and pace of Finelist's acquisitions, together with the prices paid for individual businesses give the Partco board considerable concern about the quality of Finelist's underlying earnings and its financial position."

It added: "Finelist's proposal represents an attempted takeover of Partco with no bid premium."

Philip Wragg, chief executive of Partco, said Finelist's strategy of spanning manufacturing, distribution and retail activities was "incompatible" with Partco's focus on distribution only.

He said: "Vertical integration creates conflicts with customers and suppliers." He attacked Finelist's recent

acquisition record, claiming it paid too much for Bancrofts, a paint distributor that was bought for £16 million earlier this year after competition from Partco.

A statement issued by Finelist yesterday afternoon denied that a merger would have damaged relationships with customers or suppliers, or would have presented operational or financial risks to the enlarged company.

It responded to the accusations of hurried expansion by saying results for the year to June 30 would be in line with forecasts — analysts had expected about £30 million in profits.

Finelist said it expected "further significant progress in the current year". However, it conceded that it "did not intend to

pursue the proposed merger on a unilateral basis". Mr Swan said the deal would have created "significant value for shareholders in both companies."

Industry sources said Finelist was expecting merger benefits of £14 million in the first year alone, rising to £19-£20 million in the second.

There was also annoyance in the Finelist camp that Partco had used an extract from a Credit Suisse First Boston research note to cast doubt on its cash flow.

Although the extract did question Finelist's "intrinsic cash-generating ability", the overall note concluded with a buy recommendation. Partco shares fell from 236p to 222½p, while Finelist shares stayed at 282½p.

Concentric reveals its suitor

By CAROLINE MERRELL

CONCENTRIC, the engineering company that received a bid approach two months ago, has finally revealed the identity of its mystery stalker (Matthew Barbour writes).

New Sutton, a newly formed company, yesterday confirmed it had made an £87 million, or 160p a share, cash bid for the group.

Concentric, which has seen its share price fall from more than 200p two years ago to a low of 10p, has suffered from acquisition costs, weak markets and the strength of sterling. Recent half-year figures showed pre-tax profits down 12 per cent to £3 million, on turnover up 8 per cent at £69 million.

New Sutton has received undertakings from holders of 21.2 million shares representing 38.8 per cent of share capital of the company.

Mis-selling puts insurer into loss

By CAROLINE MERRELL

SUN LIFE OF CANADA has become the first UK life insurance company to announce a loss because of paying compensation to the victims of pensions mis-selling (See Commentary, this page).

In a statement on its half-yearly results, released yesterday, the life insurance company revealed a loss of £245 million. Part of the loss was generated by a provision against pensions mis-selling of £100 million.

The company also admitted that it had been forced to make another provision of £114 million in respect of pension annuities sold by Confederation Life, which it took over four years ago. These policies guaranteed to pay annuity rates that were linked to 1994 interest rates. Since then, interest rates have fallen, but Sun Life of Canada must still meet the guarantees.

The company also finally

eliminated an £110 million asset for goodwill that was generated when Confederation Life was purchased.

Maurice Bates, senior vice-president and general manager, showed regret at the level of the provisions, but pointed out that new business levels were on the increase.

Sun Life of Canada paid £240 million for Confederation Life in 1994. It was later revealed that Sun Life of Canada had mistakenly filed incorrect Department of Trade and Industry returns on Confederation Life, resulting in an accounting error of £124 million. Mr Bates said: "There is still outstanding legal action relating to the purchase of the company."

Part of the legal action relates to the apportionment of pensions mis-selling costs. Sun Life of Canada earlier this year was forced to pay a fine of £600,000 over pensions mis-selling.

Amvescap lifts profit by 60%

By CAROLINE MERRELL

AMVESCAP, the fund manager formed last year from the £1 billion merger of Invesco and AIM, yesterday reported a 60 per cent rise in first-half profits to £117.6 million before exceptional items (Richard Miles writes).

Exceptionals included a £48.6 million charge towards the integration costs of GT Global, the fund manager it bought earlier this year for £700 million. As a result of this deal, funds under management have jumped 36 per cent to £156.2 billion since the end of December.

Amvescap said it intended to pay an interim dividend of 3p, up 20 per cent, as a foreign income dividend on October 5. Earnings per share, before exceptional items and goodwill, rose 29 per cent to 13.4p.



James Carr, chairman, Bob Critchlow, chief executive, and Lawrence Steingold, finance director, of Tetra, the IT company, reported a pre-tax loss of £558,000 in the year to May 31, compared with a profit of £21 million last time. A final dividend of 0.6p will be paid.

CSC buys town centre site

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

CAPITAL Shopping Centres (CSC), owner of the Lakeside site in Essex and the Metro-Centre near Newcastle, has bought a site in Uxbridge town centre where it plans to build a 420,000sq ft shopping complex with parking for 1,600 cars. It will invest a total of £150 million.

The 9.5 acres of freehold land were bought from Royal & Sun Alliance for about £30 million. Debenhams has

already agreed to let 102,400 sq ft for a department store, while the Arcadia group has let eight shops.

The centre will also have a multiplex cinema. The purchase fits in with CSC's switch into developing town centre shopping sites in reaction to the changes in planning regulations that have effectively halted the development of large out-of-town sites. The company announced the devel-

opment as it unveiled a 17 per cent jump in pre-tax profit to £42.6 million in the six months to June 30. Earnings per share rose from 6.8p to 7.8p and the company will pay an interim dividend of 4.625p (4.125p).

The value of its portfolio has risen to £2.03 billion from £1.9 billion six months earlier.

CSC remains confident about its prospects and the shares rose 6p to 357½p at the close yesterday.

Gordon's Liberty plans expansion

By MARIANNE CURPHY
INSURANCE
CORRESPONDENT

LIBERTY International, the financial services group chaired by Donald Gordon, is aiming to exploit the anticipated demand for stakeholder pensions in the UK by setting up a new centre to provide back-office administration services. Liberty already runs Liberty International Pensions, that specialises in group personal pensions and trades under the name of PensionStore.

David Fischel, managing director, said a number of fund managers and pensions providers had approached Liberty International Pensions with a view to outsourcing administration, communication and call centre services when stakeholder pensions were introduced. The new centre will be based in Peterborough, where the group's Pensions Service Centre is located.

Financial services activities at the Liberty International group showed a reduced loss of £1.2 million (£3.7 million) for the six months to June 30. Overall, profit before tax and exceptional items increased 16 per cent to £54 million and the interim dividend per share increased 10 per cent to 8.8p.

Liberty International also has a 72 per cent-owned subsidiary, Capital Shopping Centres, and Capital & Counties, a wholly owned property subsidiary.

Geest sued over banana sale

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

TWO of the best-known names in bananas are heading to court over a deal they struck nearly three years ago.

A joint venture between the Republic of Ireland-based Fyffes and a group of Windward Isles banana growers that bought the Geest banana business for £147.5 million is suing Geest for allegedly providing misleading information at the time of the sale.

The venture, called the Windward Isles Banana Development Company, has issued two writs against Geest, both of

which were served this week. The first alleges that Geest carried an inflated valuation of its Costa Rican banana farm at the time of the sale. The joint venture said it had been advised that this was in breach of company law and accountancy practice and is claiming damages of £33.7 million. The second writ alleges that the joint venture was misled into offering a higher price for the business than it otherwise would by being given an inflated idea of the size of a competing bid. It is claiming damages of £14.5 million.

Geest, which has left the banana business, yesterday dismissed the legal

challenge as "mischievous". It said: "Geest believes and has been advised that the writs have no merit and they will be defended vigorously."

The joint venture said the decision to take legal action "has been a considered decision following a detailed review of information that was not available at the time and which revealed skeletons".

The writs come on top of a claim by Geest against Fyffes from last December and is due to be heard next month. Geest is claiming \$27 million (£17 million) from Fyffes which it alleges should have been paid as part of a sale contract.

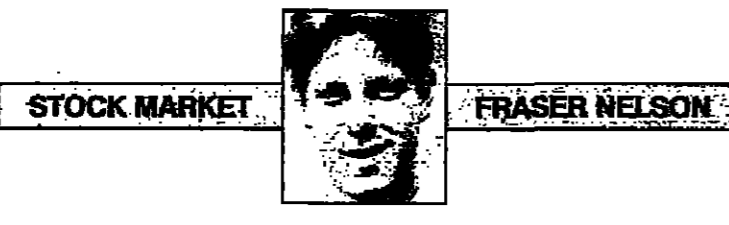


Anthony J.F. O'Reilly
Chairman



William R. Johnson
President and Chief Executive Officer

The above is extracted from the statement to shareholders of H.J. Heinz Company for the year to 30 April 1998



STOCK MARKET

FRASER NELSON

Hopes of deal boost Jarvis as FTSE continues slide

JARVIS, the fast-growing construction company, is understood to be days away from confirming a £500 million deal to buy and build student accommodation across the UK. Dealers have said the company has called a City meeting at offices of Warburg Dillon Read on Tuesday, and is likely to name two financial backers to support the scheme.

There is also speculation that Jarvis will announce a few multi-million pound contracts for the new Channel Tunnel rail link - which may also be released on Tuesday. The company would not comment yesterday and its shares added 4 1/2 p to 630p.



John Jarvis, right, and David Thomas, the deputy chief executive at Jarvis Hotels, saw the shares begin to recover

It was a quiet day for London dealers yesterday, as shares continued their gentle downwards glide and the FTSE 100 finally fell 10 p cent below last month's high.

A lacklustre opening in Wall Street did nothing to stir up trading, and only 837 million shares changed hands. Dealers said the 38.4 point fall in the FTSE 100, to 5,594.1, was mild and could mark the end of a summer correction.

Disappointed investors in Barclays, off 49p to £16.53, have been switching into NatWest, 35p better at £11.75, at the advice of numerous brokers. The exodus also benefited Abbey National, up 33p to £11.75, and Standard Chartered, 17p stronger at 620p.

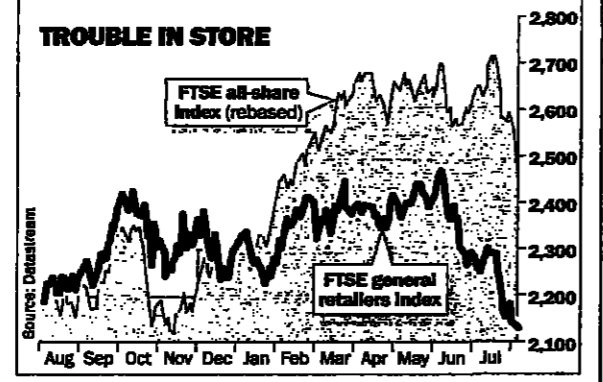
Exporters filled the ranks of the best FTSE 100 performers, through relief that the Bank of England has decided against another interest rate rise. LucasVarity gained 12 1/2 p to 230p. Rolls-Royce 10 1/2 p to 233 1/2 p. Williams 10 1/2 p to 378p.

and Tomkins 1 1/2 p to 305p. Stagecoach clawed back some of the capitalisation it has lost since joining the FTSE 100, up 6p to £12 after its supporters pulled off a successful bull run. It remains 263p below its high.

Compass Group was driven 62p cheaper to 538p after Dresdner Kleinwort Benson downgraded its recommendation. It thinks Paris-listed Sodexo Alliance looks cheaper, and a potential bid from Rentokil would create little extra value.

Charterhouse Tilney was credited for a 28p decline in shares of Provident Financial, advising clients to sell while current trading is strong. The shares dropped 28p to 957p.

Gus Macdonald, the newly appointed Scottish Industry Minister, was blamed for an 8p drop in shares to 728p of Scottish Media. He has placed £750,000 of shares, which dealers say is creating a stock overhang.



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Although two of its products are in Phase II trials, the outcome is not expected until the end of next year.

Shares are already beginning to move in Mallett, the fine art auctioneer company majority-owned by Lord Weinstock. Dutch investors who have been buying heavily into the company were yesterday rewarded by news that its profits will be "considerably higher" than market expectations at the halfway stage. Its shares added 6 1/2 p to 106p.

Directors of Jarvis Hotels have started supporting their shares, which have lost almost a quarter of their value in the past two months. John Jarvis, its chairman, bought 50,000 shares at 14 1/2 p apiece. They rose 3p to 149 1/2 p.

□ GILT-EDGED: The MPC data was welcomed in the futures pit. Treasury 13 p cent 2000 added 1/2 to 111 1/2 p. Treasury 8 p cent 2013 advanced to 123 1/2 p.

□ NEW YORK: Shares were mixed in morning trade, offering little clue as to whether the volatile decline of recent weeks had bottomed. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 23.17 points at 8,523.61.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	Dow Jones	8523.61 (-23.17)
	S&P Composite	1081.99 (-0.50)
Tokyo:	Nikkei Average	15876.22 (-115.94)
Hong Kong:	Hang Seng	7254.36 (-212.07)
Amsterdam:	AEX Index	1162.92 (-23.85)
Sydney:	AO	2602.4 (-37.30)
Frankfurt:	DAX	5517.64 (-114.87)
Singapore:	Brussels	1065.78 (+13.65)
	SELE20	3453.82 (-18.38)
Paris:	CAC-40	3968.59 (-7.81)
Zurich:	SKA Gen	1997.10 (-18.58)
London:	FTSE 100	5594.1 (-10.7)
	FTSE 250	5311.10 (-10.5)
	FTSE 350	2700.0 (-16.1)
	FTSE Europe 100	2746.99 (-40.72)
	FTSE All-Share	2028.20 (-14.98)
	FTSE Non Financials	2876.00 (-15.2)
	FTSE Fixed Interest	144.40 (+0.12)
	FTSE Govt Secs	105.87 (+0.29)
Burgundy:	SEAD Volume	61970
	US\$	1.6225 (-0.0009)
	German Mark	2.8869 (-0.0012)
	Exchange Index	105.7 (-0.3)
	Bank of England (official close)	4.75
	ESCU	1.4681
	ESDR	1.2286
	RPI	163.4 Jun (1.7%) Jan 1987=100
	REX	101.1 Jun (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

AdVal Group	56 1/2	...
Anglo Siberian Oil	107 1/2	...
Baldwin Indl Svs	127 1/2	...
Biocryptics Wts	10 1/2	...
British Rgnl Air	152 1/2	...
CCM Distribution	10 1/2	...
Chaucer's Wt	12 1/2	...
City Gourmets	56	...
Coca-Cola (160)	176 1/2	...
Downtext	26	...
ECsoft	1930	...
Game	181 1/2	...
Hild Hearing	149	...
MEPC Non Cum PFB	95	...
Martin Cur High Inc	103	...
Murray Financial	10 1/2	...
Polley Master Grp	202 1/2	...
Premier Direct	182 1/2	...
Quanta	120	...
Selfridges (233)	211	...
Socit Petroleum	52 1/2	...
Sprngbrd Vent Mng	147 1/2	...
SupaRule	100 1/2	...
Syndct Cp Wt 98/02	23 1/2	...
Torotrak	254	...
Touchstone	128 1/2	...
Tyrrorder Tech	86 1/2	...
Unit Risks Part B	29 1/2	...
Williams P&B	34 1/2	...

Metroline n/p (250)	70	+ 2 1/2
Pressac n/p (180)	22 1/2	...
Torotrak n/p (200)	1	...
Wellington n/p (210)	11 1/2	...

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

The cost of quality

BARCLAYS was always going to have a hard act to follow after NatWest earlier this week unveiled a remarkable recovery in its fortunes. But are brokers right to advise investors to sell their Barclays stock and buy NatWest shares?

Yes and no. NatWest looks distinctly cheap compared to Barclays when its stock price is measured against net asset value: the former trades on 2.5 times, while the latter is on a multiple of 3.3. If you believe all banks are much the same, then NatWest is certainly less expensive.

However, Barclays shareholders should think twice about disposing of stock. True, costs are rising at Barclays while falling at other banks. But its revenue is growing and more importantly its assets are of a much higher quality. Barclays has spent the past six

years clearing up its loan book. Even Martin Taylor, chief executive, will admit that provisions for bad debts are likely to rise as growth in the UK economy slows. But he believes that Barclays will be more insulated than most high-street lenders from the woes, partly because of the repositioning of its loan portfolio, but also because of its strict lending criteria.

Then there is the prospect of more share buybacks from a cash surplus that will be running close to £2 billion by early next year. Buybacks are capped at £100 million for this second half because of tax reasons which pertain until April 1999. After that, investors could see a massive capital repatriation scheme, unless Mr Taylor finds some other way to spend the money.

The stock is at least a hold.

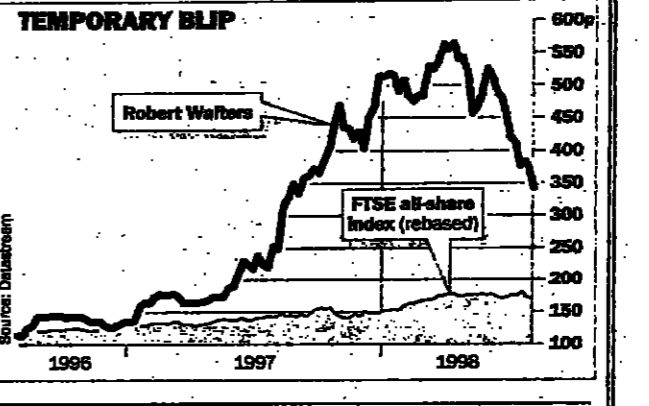
Robert Walters

STUDENTS of the Grand Old Duke of York school of investment should study Robert Walters. When it floated just two years ago, the recruitment consultancy was valued at roughly 11 1/2 p a share. It then enjoyed a phenomenal rise, taking the shares to a peak of 57 1/2 p earlier this year. Then the City started to get the jitters and the stock marched back down the hill until it stood yesterday at 34 1/2 p.

Announcing a fine set of half-year results yesterday the eponymous chairman of the company tried to soothe the market's furrowed brow, saying that all the reasons behind Robert Walters being a buy were still there, while the worries were unfounded.

There is still a strong demand for information technology and finance staff,

not least because of the Year 2000 bug and monetary union. However, the City has spotted that the economy is no longer booming, and worries that Robert Walters might be a little too exposed to this contraction. Not so, said the chairman, adding it had developed a large, temporary recruitment business, which suggests they may march back up that hill.



Shell

SHELL was punished yesterday but for somewhat spurious reasons. Its results were no worse than its peers; the cost-cutting efforts of Shell and BP are mere tinkering.

That it has done better than it would have done if everything remained the same. Nothing ever remains the same: the bald fact is that with oil at \$13, the cost-cutting efforts of Shell and BP are mere tinkering.

Shell presentation. Last December Shell proudly announced that it aimed to raise its return on capital to 12 per cent this year. Unfortunately, the target assumed an oil price of some \$15 a barrel, inevitably, the environment has blown its ambitions to shreds. Shell's first-half return on capital was a mere 10 per cent and the company's planners are now going into a huddle and will emerge, in December, with new targets.

Shell could adopt BP's approach of announcing a big number each quarter showing what it achieved in self-help. But BP's presentation, while sounding impressive, is more cure than revealing. Instead of setting fixed goals it merely shows

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R&S&A

THE insurance industry is facing savagely competitive market conditions and there is little sign that relief is imminent. The UK composites, with strong new business in life and pensions have been able to offset poor underwriting results from general insurance against life profits.

Royal & SunAlliance has, alas, a small share of the long-term savings market. Stock market observers would prefer R&S&A to buy a

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LAFIPE		COCOA	
Dec	1067-1068	Dec	1193-1199
Jan	1096-1097	Jan	1210-1200
Mar	1121-1119	Mar	1252-1251
May	1157-1135	May	1294
Jul	1185-1180	Jul	1325-1325
Vol: 101-116	Vol: 64-68		
ROBUSTA COFFEE (p)			
Sep	1670-1669	Mar	1605-1688
Nov	1640-1639	May	1605-1678
Jan	1627-1646	Vol: 2092	
Mar	1607-1698	Vol: 2092	
WHITE SUGAR (POB)			
Dec	297-363	Dec	297-363
Jan	299-363	Jan	299-363
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سكز ابن زلازل

Government must come clean on EMU

The pro- and anti-EMU camps within business normally find little to agree on. Surprisingly, however, they are united in one view — that the Government is determined to take us into the single currency as soon as it can after the next election.

For the anti-EMU, it is all part of a conspiracy that will see the Government somehow contrive to slip the single currency past an unsuspecting public. For the pro-EMU, it is the surest sign of the Government's commitment to business, displaying a willingness to take short-term political risks in order to secure the long-term future of the British economy.

Tony Blair's first reshuffle last week only hardened these sentiments. Business had little doubt that the arrival of pro-EMU Peter Mandelson at the Department of Trade and Industry, coupled with the appointment of Lord Sains-

bury to the same department, signalled the beginning of a concerted effort to join the single currency.

Official EMU policy has not changed but amid all the smoke and mirrors emanating from Government, a couple of contradictory indicators seem to have been overlooked. Gordon Brown's Comprehensive Spending Review has some important consequences for the conduct of EMU policy and yet the debate around the package has remained rigidly UK-centric.

The City has pointed to the potentially inflationary consequences of the extra spending while business has welcomed the boost to infrastructure spending — bringing with it some juicy new public sector contracts. Even Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, used a lecture on public spending at the Social Market Foundation earlier this week

to cast the Review in the grand old tradition of Old Labour's faith in the efficacy of public spending.

As critics of the Spending Review have noted, it will ensure that UK interest rates will remain at higher levels, and for longer, than would have been the case if the Chancellor had not boosted public spending. The interest rate differential between the UK and the rest of Europe will widen. Economists believe the full impact of higher interest rates will be felt in 2000 — just the time that a Government committed to joining a single currency should be looking for UK



rates to begin to fall to European levels.

By making it harder to join EMU, the Chancellor is clearly demonstrating that the Government's principal concern remains domestic politics. Entry early in the next Parliament is still not impossible — the Government will comfortably meet most of the requirements of the Maastricht Treaty. However, to close the interest rate gap, the Government will be forced to reverse its spending plans or raise taxes. Just try to imagine the reaction of Alastair Campbell, Mr Blair's official spokesman, to the headlines such a policy would provoke.

It is not just the Treasury, however, that is distinctly more ambiguous about the euro than business believes. In the discussions of the European views of Mr Brown, Mr Mandelson et al, one pivotal figure seems to have been forgotten. Mr Blair also has his own economic adviser, Derek Scott, who is distinctly sceptical about the EMU project.

The former Barclays economist believes that while, superficially, it will look as if the UK economy has converged with Europe early in the next decade, in reality this will be a cyclical rather than structural phenomenon. The UK has made no moves towards reducing its abnormal sensitivity to interest rates while Europe has made no effort to introduce flexibility in its labour market, leaving the single currency area highly prone to unemployment shocks. Mr Scott has been telling Mr Blair that

the UK will not be ready to join before at least the end of the next Parliament.

All of this makes good, solid economic sense but leaves business in a dilemma. The burgeoning euro preparation industry continues to push the line that the Government is serious about joining while the Treasury and the DTI are visibly stepping up their business support efforts. This is building a business-led momentum for early entry and industry, sensibly enough, will move beyond simply preparing for EMU towards long-term planning on the basis of single currency membership.

If the Government is inclined to stay out for longer, business needs to know in order to avoid a bad case of planning blight. The "maybe-probably" formula has bought the Government political time but it is risking leading business astray on its real intentions.

New wonder drug tipped to out-sell Viagra

Andrew Butcher reports on the cause of Celebra

With the international hype over the impotency drug Viagra raging, the medical world and industry analysts are almost as excited about the approach of the next potential wonder drug, Celebra.

There's a huge market for it but the question is how will they market it? Viagra was more of a novel new drug and it had sex associated with it.

Some analysts are predicting Celebra, a painkiller aimed at relief for arthritis sufferers, will beat Viagra's staggering success. Viagra became the fastest-selling drug in history when sales in its first three months topped \$411 million (£250 million) in America. Viagra's market is largely limited to men, and then only those suffering from impotency or the relative few who use the pill as a "recreational drug". On the other hand, Celebra is aimed at an estimated 40 million Americans and hundreds of millions of people around the world with arthritis. As the baby-boomer generation reaches old age, the market is expected to grow.

While Celebra's potential sales mean it has been compared with the runaway success of Viagra, it is a very different type of drug. Celebra eases the pain of arthritis by blocking the enzyme from producing a type of prostaglandin, the substance causes joints to hurt.

Existing painkillers can already effectively stop the joint pains, but what makes Celebra revolutionary is that it does its job without ruining the lining of the stomach. It is estimated that 7,600 people died last year in America from internal bleeding caused by long-term use of painkillers.

Celebra is in the final stages of tests involving thousands of arthritis victims across America. Patients are raving about its ability to block the pain and report few or no side-effects.

Ms Howe said testing Celebra has changed her life: "A person can shake my hand and I'm not in pain. I can hold a pencil."

Searle, the Monsanto subsidiary, will manufacture Celebra, and Pfizer, which brought the world's first Viagra, will market it. Searle is silent about the drug's potential, indicating Celebra has gone to the Food and Drug Administration for final approval. If accepted, it could be on the shelves in America in early 1999.

It is unlikely to be alone in pharmacies for long. Another drug company, Merck, has a similar pill called Vioxx which is just a few months behind Searle's product. Vioxx is likely to be beaten in the race to be first on the market, but it has the advantage of being a one-dose-a-day drug, while Celebra must be taken twice daily.

Mr Tang said: "That's what I would put my finger on as the next blockbuster drug, not only in terms of medicinal value but in terms of cult following." Other analysts, such as Gerard Klauer Mattison's Cynthia Beach, are more cautious. Ms Beach said: "I don't think it will be bigger than Viagra."

No salvation in sight for a profitable property dilemma

Martin Waller on the ethical problems posed by development plans for a City landmark

THE Salvation Army faces a judgment of Solomon over potentially huge profits that the organisation stands to make from the sale of its historic London headquarters.

The Army has brought in architects and property developers to advise on the future of the site, on Queen Victoria Street between St Paul's Cathedral and the river.

The freehold was first acquired by William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, last century and has been its international headquarters since 1881.

The present building, described by one architect as "not particularly elegant", dates from 1963, but the Army's long history at the site means there are strong emotional and cultural links among members to the building.

However, the growth of the City over the past decade means the site may be worth an enormous amount if the Army relocates and redevelops it — one property expert put the figure at approaching £100 million. The most likely tenants would inevitably be the forces of Mammon, in the shape of an international bank.



The Salvation Army is divided over the future of its historic headquarters in Queen Victoria Street, Central London

Sources close to the project say the Army is split, with one side favouring retaining the site despite the possible windfall and the other arguing that the money would best be put to good Christian use elsewhere.

"All the commercial indications are that they should move," said one insider. "I think when they really understand what the value is, things may change."

The Army has appointed Healey & Baker and Montagu Evans, both respected property firms, and John McAslan, the architect currently refurbishing Peter Jones for the John Lewis Partnership, to investigate the potential of the building.

It is only partly occupied by the Salvation Army's international wing after the UK arm relocated to the Elephant and Castle, South London, at the end of last year.

One option is to redevelop the site, which will almost certainly require demolition, and retain part of it for the Army's use. But property experts say this would lessen

its value substantially to potential co-tenants, who would prefer exclusive occupation.

To add to the Army's ethical dilemma, there would be inevitable restrictions on the sort of firms that could occupy the building. Drink and cigarette makers and arms manufacturers could be barred, along with anyone linked with gambling — the Army refuses to accept National Lottery cash.

There is also the argument that a refurbished headquarters in that area of London

would serve to attract further funds from donors, as it is on the route between St Paul's and the planned Millennium Bridge across the Thames to the new Tate Gallery.

An estimated four million people a year are expected to take this route when it is built, so passing the Salvation Army's front door.

Arthur Thomson, Salvation Army Commissioner, said: "We haven't resolved any of that. The first thing to do is to get planning consent to devel-

op the whole site. That's going to take about a year and, in the course of time, some of the questions will be answered."

He accepted that there was something of a split, with some members not willing to move and others saying that a charity should not be housed in such grandiose surroundings.

"You always will have different points of view. Some are very conservative, sentimental and attached to the site. Others are more realistic," he said.

It also owns 51 per cent of the Reliance Bank, which provides banking facilities to the Salvation Army and the general public. Also in its diverse portfolio is a travel agency called Reliance World Travel, providing services to the Army and the general public.

In Britain alone, Army workers provide more than 4.5 million meals for the needy and more than a million for the elderly every year.

Earlier this year the UK arm turned down two offers to sell a homeless hostel near the new Scottish parliament at Holyrood in Edinburgh to provide luxury flats for Scottish MPs.

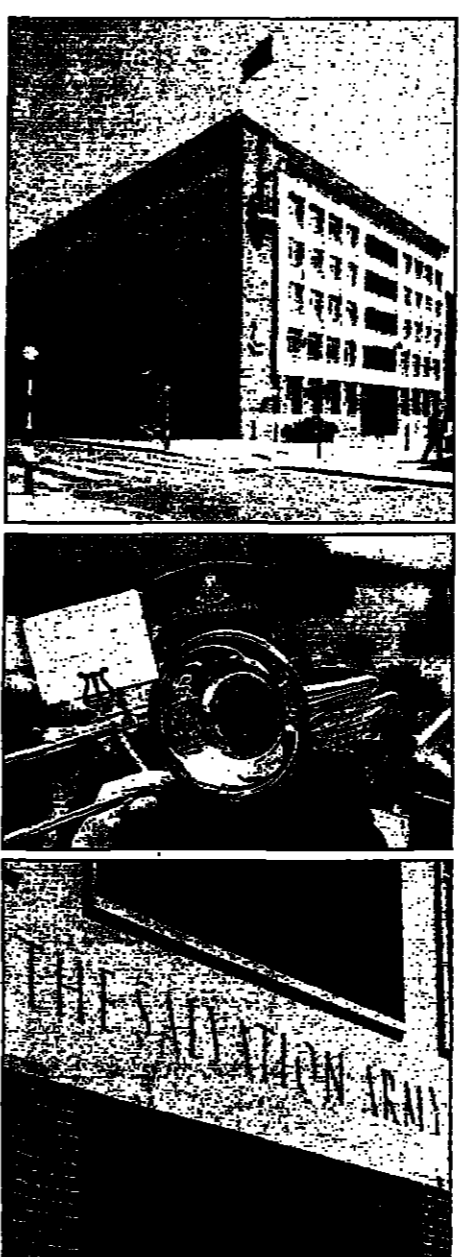
Separate divisions united by common cause

The international arm of the Salvation Army, with its headquarters currently on Queen Victoria Street in the City, is a completely separate entity from the UK division of the Army, now based at the Elephant & Castle in South London.

Although the membership of the Army has shrunk from over 124,000 salvationists or "soldiers" in 1947 to just 43,000 today, the International Trust has bases in more than 103 countries and preaches in 160 languages.

It runs over 3,000 hospitals, schools, hostels and other institutions, as well as disaster relief services, day care centres, summer camps, services for the elderly, shelters for battered wives, drug rehabilitation, correction services, family and career counselling and a family tracing service.

Last year the international arm had an income of £16.5 million, almost £2 million less than the previous year. Of this, only £14,000 came from donations, compared with £18 million in 1996.



Policyholders are made to pay for Prudential's pensions mis-selling

From Mr James Carr

Sir, In his chairman's statement for the first six months Sir Martin Jacob, the chairman of the Prudential, explains that the £1.1 billion cost of pensions mis-selling will be charged to the long-term fund out of which is paid the bonuses for policyholders.

Only in the unlikely event that this fund would become overstretched would there be any charge to the shareholders.

The cynical use of policyholders' money to meet a cost which should surely fall on the owners of the company is indicative of a continuation of the very culture that caused the

mis-selling in the first place, namely the ruthless exploitation of the customer for shareholder profit.

Silence from the regulator would indicate that such practice is acceptable.

I today have torn up a pension proposal from the Prudential and have instead reversed all my business to the mutual sector, where this unacceptable conflict can be so easily avoided.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES CARR,
Moorhouse Hall,
Warwick-on-Eden,
Carlisle,
CA4 8PA.

Economising

A FAMILIAR face is going to become less familiar in future because John Shepperd, one of those economists who can be relied on to fill a television screen whenever we are in real trouble, is going to Dresdner Kleinwort Benson. He is joining his old mate Ian Harwood, global head of economics and strategy, with whom he worked for seven years at SG Warburg as was.

Shepperd left Warburg to join Yamatchi Securities, where he thrived

until it imploded late last year. Oddly enough, he bumped into Harwood at a cocktail party just after the fatal envelope had arrived on his desk, but there were no slots at Kleinwort at the time. Harwood says Shepperd's new job as a director of the economics team will be far more focused on client relationships and less on the media. "I should think he will be a little less ubiquitous," he predicts. A pity, then.



"It wasn't my fault, Dad — it was the weather"

NICE to see that Andrew Buxton, chairman of Barclays Bank, has such a firm grip on the financial services industry. Answering a question yesterday on the pace of consolidation, Mr Buxton picked out the example of the merger between Commercial Union and Guardian Royal Exchange. An aide gently pointed out that CU was in fact merging with General Accident. Perhaps Buxton has reason to be nervous on the subject of mergers?

Match-breaker

GOOD news for French divorce lawyers. The Spanish family that owns Hello! magazine, the publication that depicts micro-celebrities in a favourable light, are planning a French issue. This follows the experience of the British version, a runaway suc-

cess that should have the entire nation hanging its head in shame. I even found a copy hidden around Waller Towers a while back, and Her Ladyship had to be given a severe talking to. Whatever. The Sanchez family has hired for the project a former staffer at Paris Match, a publication that is likely to suffer if the new launch is a success. Expect the curse of Hello! to blight several Parisian marriages, before long. There is only one hitch. No one can think of a sufficiently informal greeting to use as a name. How about Salut?

Job's worth

IAN HUNTER, a City solicitor, has written a book that I suspect will end up in the bottom drawer of many a

harassed wage slave's desk at work. The Which? Guide to Employment, published next month, aims to be a layman's tour of contracts, termination, constructive dismissal, sexual harassment and all the other ailments of the modern workplace and it is also, he says, the only textbook on the market aimed at the non-lawyer, whether employer or employee.

Hunter, 37, worked for some years for the ebullient Ronnie Fox at Fox Williams before moving to Bird & Bird, where he is a partner and frequently turns his hand to journalism. Existing titles, he says, veer between heavy legal texts and "Noddy books" that fail to give sufficient detail to allow the employee, in those difficult moments at work, to decide whether to reach for a £300-an-hour employment lawyer or merely to put up and shut up.

Bass instinct

NON-CINEASTES may not be greatly surprised that Wim Wenders has made a commercial for Carling Premier, the yob lager made by Bass. For

cinestates, it is as if Schoenberg had been chosen for the anthem to the next World Cup. It is unlikely that the man whose Paris, Texas contains more pregnant silences than a maternity ward full of deaf mutes could compress anything into 30 seconds, but it will be on your screen shortly. Look for a man cycling across a waterfall. Whether anyone will know what is being advertised by the end of it I cannot say, but I ring Bass to congratulate them on an inspired choice.

"We tried to get Andrei Tarkovsky, but he's dead," the man says.

As the saying goes, I made the last bit up.

MARTIN WALLER



Wim Wenders may not seem the most likely choice for an advert

The Finance Act

Order your copy direct by calling the number below. Orders received by 3pm despatched same day.

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THE PARLIAMENTARY ORDER LINE

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WEEKEND

30 UNIT TRUST PRICES

THE TIMES FRIDAY AUGUST 7 1998

Main table containing unit trust prices for various funds, organized in columns with headers for fund names and prices.

Advertisement for BT (British Telecom) featuring the slogan 'Improve your financial picture' and 'A new evolution for BT'.

Vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, likely for a financial institution or service, with some illegible text.

Shares lower in quiet trade

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
1.25	1.20	Asahi Breweries	1.25	-4.0	18.5
1.15	1.10	Beck & Co	1.15	-4.3	15.2
1.05	1.00	Carlsberg	1.05	-4.8	14.1
0.95	0.90	Heineken	0.95	-5.3	13.0
0.85	0.80	Kirin	0.85	-5.9	12.0
0.75	0.70	Sankey	0.75	-6.7	11.0
0.65	0.60	Tate & Lyle	0.65	-7.7	10.0
0.55	0.50	Wassenaar	0.55	-9.1	9.0

BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
1.50	1.45	Bank of America	1.50	-3.3	12.5
1.40	1.35	Bank of England	1.40	-3.6	11.8
1.30	1.25	Bank of Ireland	1.30	-3.8	11.2
1.20	1.15	Bank of Scotland	1.20	-4.2	10.5
1.10	1.05	Bank of Wales	1.10	-4.5	9.8
1.00	0.95	Barclays	1.00	-4.8	9.2
0.90	0.85	First National	0.90	-5.1	8.6
0.80	0.75	London & Lancashire	0.80	-5.4	8.0
0.70	0.65	Midland	0.70	-5.7	7.4
0.60	0.55	Paragon	0.60	-6.0	6.8
0.50	0.45	Royal Bank of Canada	0.50	-6.3	6.2
0.40	0.35	Trust Bank	0.40	-6.6	5.6
0.30	0.25	Yorkshire	0.30	-6.9	5.0

PREWERIES, PUBS & REST

High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
1.80	1.75	Asahi Breweries	1.80	-2.8	15.0
1.70	1.65	Beck & Co	1.70	-3.0	14.0
1.60	1.55	Carlsberg	1.60	-3.1	13.0
1.50	1.45	Heineken	1.50	-3.3	12.0
1.40	1.35	Kirin	1.40	-3.6	11.0
1.30	1.25	Sankey	1.30	-3.8	10.0
1.20	1.15	Tate & Lyle	1.20	-4.2	9.0
1.10	1.05	Wassenaar	1.10	-4.5	8.0

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
1.20	1.15	Asahi Breweries	1.20	-4.2	12.0
1.10	1.05	Beck & Co	1.10	-4.5	11.0
1.00	0.95	Carlsberg	1.00	-4.8	10.0
0.90	0.85	Heineken	0.90	-5.1	9.0
0.80	0.75	Kirin	0.80	-5.4	8.0
0.70	0.65	Sankey	0.70	-5.7	7.0
0.60	0.55	Tate & Lyle	0.60	-6.0	6.0
0.50	0.45	Wassenaar	0.50	-6.3	5.0

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
1.50	1.45	Asahi Breweries	1.50	-3.3	10.0
1.40	1.35	Beck & Co	1.40	-3.6	9.0
1.30	1.25	Carlsberg	1.30	-3.8	8.0
1.20	1.15	Heineken	1.20	-4.2	7.0
1.10	1.05	Kirin	1.10	-4.5	6.0
1.00	0.95	Sankey	1.00	-4.8	5.0
0.90	0.85	Tate & Lyle	0.90	-5.1	4.0
0.80	0.75	Wassenaar	0.80	-5.4	3.0

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
1.20	1.15	Asahi Breweries	1.20	-4.2	8.0
1.10	1.05	Beck & Co	1.10	-4.5	7.0
1.00	0.95	Carlsberg	1.00	-4.8	6.0
0.90	0.85	Heineken	0.90	-5.1	5.0
0.80	0.75	Kirin	0.80	-5.4	4.0
0.70	0.65	Sankey	0.70	-5.7	3.0
0.60	0.55	Tate & Lyle	0.60	-6.0	2.0
0.50	0.45	Wassenaar	0.50	-6.3	1.0

BUILDING MATERIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
1.50	1.45	Asahi Breweries	1.50	-3.3	7.0
1.40	1.35	Beck & Co	1.40	-3.6	6.0
1.30	1.25	Carlsberg	1.30	-3.8	5.0
1.20	1.15	Heineken	1.20	-4.2	4.0
1.10	1.05	Kirin	1.10	-4.5	3.0
1.00	0.95	Sankey	1.00	-4.8	2.0
0.90	0.85	Tate & Lyle	0.90	-5.1	1.0
0.80	0.75	Wassenaar	0.80	-5.4	0.5

CHEMICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
1.50	1.45	Asahi Breweries	1.50	-3.3	6.0
1.40	1.35	Beck & Co	1.40	-3.6	5.0
1.30	1.25	Carlsberg	1.30	-3.8	4.0
1.20	1.15	Heineken	1.20	-4.2	3.0
1.10	1.05	Kirin	1.10	-4.5	2.0
1.00	0.95	Sankey	1.00	-4.8	1.0
0.90	0.85	Tate & Lyle	0.90	-5.1	0.5
0.80	0.75	Wassenaar	0.80	-5.4	0.2

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
1.50	1.45	Asahi Breweries	1.50	-3.3	5.0
1.40	1.35	Beck & Co	1.40	-3.6	4.0
1.30	1.25	Carlsberg	1.30	-3.8	3.0
1.20	1.15	Heineken	1.20	-4.2	2.0
1.10	1.05	Kirin	1.10	-4.5	1.0
1.00	0.95	Sankey	1.00	-4.8	0.5
0.90	0.85	Tate & Lyle	0.90	-5.1	0.2
0.80	0.75	Wassenaar	0.80	-5.4	0.1

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
1.50	1.45	Asahi Breweries	1.50	-3.3	4.0
1.40	1.35	Beck & Co	1.40	-3.6	3.0
1.30	1.25	Carlsberg	1.30	-3.8	2.0
1.20	1.15	Heineken	1.20	-4.2	1.0
1.10	1.05	Kirin	1.10	-4.5	0.5
1.00	0.95	Sankey	1.00	-4.8	0.2
0.90	0.85	Tate & Lyle	0.90	-5.1	0.1
0.80	0.75	Wassenaar	0.80	-5.4	0.0

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
1.50	1.45	Asahi Breweries	1.50	-3.3	3.0
1.40	1.35	Beck & Co	1.40	-3.6	2.0
1.30	1.25	Carlsberg	1.30	-3.8	1.0
1.20	1.15	Heineken	1.20	-4.2	0.5
1.10	1.05	Kirin	1.10	-4.5	0.2
1.00	0.95	Sankey	1.00	-4.8	0.1
0.90	0.85	Tate & Lyle	0.90	-5.1	0.0
0.80	0.75	Wassenaar	0.80	-5.4	0.0

HEALTHCARE

High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
1.50	1.45	Asahi Breweries	1.50	-3.3	2.0
1.40	1.35	Beck & Co	1.40	-3.6	1.0
1.30	1.25	Carlsberg	1.30	-3.8	0.5
1.20	1.15	Heineken	1.20	-4.2	0.2
1.10	1.05	Kirin	1.10	-4.5	0.1
1.00	0.95	Sankey	1.00	-4.8	0.0
0.90	0.85	Tate & Lyle	0.90	-5.1	0.0
0.80	0.75	Wassenaar	0.80	-5.4	0.0

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
1.50	1.45	Asahi Breweries	1.50	-3.3	1.0
1.40	1.35	Beck & Co	1.40	-3.6	0.5
1.30	1.25	Carlsberg	1.30	-3.8	0.2
1.20	1.15	Heineken	1.20	-4.2	0.1
1.10	1.05	Kirin	1.10	-4.5	0.0
1.00	0.95	Sankey	1.00	-4.8	0.0
0.90	0.85	Tate & Lyle	0.90	-5.1	0.0
0.80	0.75	Wassenaar	0.80	-5.4	0.0

ENGINEERING

High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
1.50	1.45	Asahi Breweries	1.50	-3.3	0.5
1.40	1.35	Beck & Co	1.40	-3.6	0.2
1.30	1.25	Carlsberg	1.30	-3.8	0.1
1.20	1.15	Heineken	1.20	-4.2	0.0
1.10	1.05	Kirin	1.10	-4.5	0.0
1.00	0.95	Sankey	1.00	-4.8	0.0
0.90	0.85	Tate & Lyle	0.90	-5.1	0.0
0.80	0.75	Wassenaar	0.80	-5.4	0.0

CONSTRUCTION

High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
1.50	1.45	Asahi Breweries	1.50	-3.3	0.0
1.40	1.35	Beck & Co	1.40	-3.6	0.0
1.30	1.25	Carlsberg	1.30	-3.8	0.0
1.20	1.15	Heineken	1.20	-4.2	0.0
1.10	1.05	Kirin	1.10	-4.5	0.0
1.00	0.95	Sankey	1.00	-4.8	0.0
0.90	0.85	Tate & Lyle	0.90	-5.1	0.0
0.80	0.75	Wassenaar	0.80	-5.4	0.0

DISTRIBUTORS

High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
1.50	1.45	Asahi Breweries	1.50	-3.3	0.0
1.40	1.35	Beck & Co	1.40	-3.6	0.0
1.30	1.25	Carlsberg	1.30	-3.8	0.0
1.20	1.15	Heineken	1.20	-4.2	0.0
1.10	1.05	Kirin	1.10	-4.5	0.0
1.00	0.95	Sankey	1.00	-4.8	0.0
0.90	0.85	Tate & Lyle	0.90	-5.1	0.0
0.80	0.75	Wassenaar	0.80	-5.4	0.0

OTHER FINANCIAL

High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
1.50	1.45	Asahi Breweries	1.50	-3.3	0.0
1.40	1.35	Beck & Co	1.40	-3.6	0.0
1.30	1.25	Carlsberg	1.30	-3.8	0.0
1.20	1.15	Heineken	1.20	-4.2	0.0
1.10	1.05	Kirin	1.10	-4.5	0.0
1.00	0.95	Sankey	1.00	-4.8	0.0
0.90	0.85	Tate & Lyle	0.90	-5.1	0.0
0.80	0.75	Wassenaar	0.80	-5.4	0.0

MEDIA

High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
1.50	1.45	Asahi Breweries	1.50	-3.3	0.0
1.40	1.35	Beck & Co	1.40	-3.6	0.0
1.30	1.25	Carlsberg	1.30	-3.8	0.0
1.20	1.15	Heineken	1.20	-4.2	0.0
1.10	1.05	Kirin	1.10	-4.5	0.0
1.00	0.95	Sankey	1.00	-4.8	0.0
0.90	0.85	Tate & Lyle	0.90	-5.1	0.0
0.80	0.75	Wassenaar	0.80	-5.4	0.0

PHARMACEUTICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
1.50	1.45	Asahi Breweries	1.50	-3.3	0.0
1.40	1.35	Beck & Co	1.40	-3.6	0.0
1.30	1.25	Carlsberg	1.30	-3.8	0.0
1.20	1.15	Heineken	1.20	-4.2	0.0
1.10	1.05	Kirin	1.10	-4.5	0.0
1.00	0.95	Sankey	1.00	-4.8	0.0
0.90	0.85	Tate & Lyle	0.90	-5.1	0.0
0.80	0.75	Wassenaar	0.80	-5.4	0.0

PRINTING & PAPER

High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
1.50	1.45	Asahi Breweries	1.50	-3.3	0.0
1.40	1.35	Beck & Co	1.40	-3.6	0.0
1.30	1.25	Carlsberg	1.30	-3.8	0.0
1.20	1.15	Heineken	1.20	-4.2	0.0
1.10	1.05	Kirin	1.10	-4.5	0.0
1.00	0.95	Sankey	1.00		

Court of Appeal

Law Report August 7 1998

Court of Appeal

Liability limited before established Fraud plea is new cause of action

Caspian Basin Specialised Emergency Salvage Administration and Another v Bouygues Offshore SA and Others

Before Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Mummery and Sir John Knox

There was no jurisdictional bar to the court's grant of a limitation of liability decree, under the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, before liability had first been established or admitted.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment when, inter alia, dismissing appeals by Bouygues Offshore SA, owners of the barge Bos 400, against the judgment of Mr Justice Rix in the Admiralty Court of the Queen's Bench Division (The Times July 3, 1997; [1997] 2 Lloyd's Rep 507) when he granted applications of the plaintiffs, Caspian and Utisol, for declarations limiting their liability, if any, in connection with the total loss of the barge in June 1994 in stormy conditions as it approached Cape Town when it was driven ashore on to rocks. The judge held the maximum liability was limited to £23,538.72 plus interest.

The court also overturned an injunction ordered by the English court restraining Bouygues from pursuing its claims against Utisol in South Africa.

The barge, registered in France, was under tow from the Congo to Cape Town by the tug Tigr, owned by Caspian, who were Russian or Azerbaijani, and time-chartered by Utisol.

Bouygues claimed, inter alia, damages from Utisol and from Caspian for the alleged negligent handling of the tow and the tug, misrepresentation of the tug's capacity and for rescission of the towage contract, which was the only link with England as it required the parties to the contract to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts, and also claimed negligence alleged against the Cape Town harbour authority, known as Portnet.

Caspian as shipowner and Utisol as time-charterers were entitled to limit their liabilities under English and South African law.

England had adopted the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims 1976, scheduled to the 1995 Act, under which the limit was higher but more difficult for Bouygues to break.

South Africa still adopted the International Convention relating to the Limitation of Liability of Owners of Seagoing Ships 1957 by which the lower limit only operated if the shipowner or charterer proved the absence of actual fault or privity on their part.

Mr Nigel Teare, QC and Mr Simon Gault for Bouygues; Mr Stephen Tomlinson, QC and Mr Richard Southern for Portnet, third party; Mr Nicholas Hamblen, QC for Caspian; Mr

Angus Glennie, QC and Miss Clare Ambrose for Utisol. SIR JOHN KNOX said that he saw no possible logical objection to the court having a discretion to decide an issue of maximum liability before deciding whether there was any liability.

Mr Teare's principal argument, founded on the 1976 Convention and Polish Steam Ship Co v Atlantic Maritime Co [1998] QB 41, 53, was that that decision showed that a limitation fund when constituted was not actually available within the meaning of article 13(3) of the Convention until the limitation decree was granted.

The clear intention of the 1976 Convention was that a shipowner who had constituted a fund should be entitled to obtain release of any vessel that had been arrested and the bar on other actions against him.

But if it were open to a shipowner to obtain a limitation decree before liability was admitted or established, the bars in article 13(3) and the release of the arrested vessel would not be available even though a limitation decree had been obtained.

Therefore, Mr Teare submitted, the scheme of the Convention required liability to be admitted or established before a decree was granted.

His Lordship did not accept that conclusion. What did appear from the Polish Steam Ship case was that until both liability was established and a limitation decree granted, the mechanism in the 1976 Convention for protecting

shipowners entitled to limit their liability (hereunder) did not become operational. There was nothing extraordinary in that.

No one suggested that a shipowner obtained the benefit of the bar on other actions and the release of arrested ships provided for by article 13(1) and (2) until a limitation decree had been granted, but it was common practice to constitute the limitation fund well before that decree.

So there was, so to speak, a hold-up in the availability of the remedies to shipowners pending the grant of the limitation decree.

His Lordship was unable to see that there was any fatal infringement of the scheme of the Convention if there was a further hold-up of the availability of those remedies during such period, if any, as elapsed between the grant of the decree and the establishment by admission or determination of the shipowner's liability.

That further delay would be the price the shipowner paid for continuing to contest liability. There was therefore no basis on which such argument, which was not put to the judge, undermined his decision. His Lordship accepted the other arguments the judge relied on to support his conclusion.

Lord Justice Evans delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Mummery agreed with both.

Solicitors: Clyde & Co; Middleton Potts; Edwin Coe; Thomas Cooper & Stibbard.

market at the end of 1990 unless they established fraud.

The lenders accordingly sought leave to amend to allege fraud by the solicitors. The applications were made more than six years after the last of the relevant transactions and were therefore prima facie time-barred.

Mr Justice Chadwick refused leave in the Thimbleby case on June 4, 1997. The solicitors appealed. Mr Justice Timothy Lloyd granted leave in the Thimbleby case on March 25, 1997. The lenders appealed.

Mr Christopher R. Parker for the lenders; Mr Edward Barnister, QC and Mr Thomas Dumort for the solicitors.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that it was inconceivable that an amendment to make a new allegation of intentional wrongdoing by pleading fraud where previously mere negligence had been alleged amounted to the introduction of a new cause of action.

By the combined effect of section 35(3) to (5) of the Limitation Act 1980 and Order 20, rule 5(2) and (5) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, the court could not allow such an amendment after any relevant limitation period had expired. The new cause of action did not arise out of the same facts or substantially the same facts as a cause of action in respect of which relief had already been claimed in the action.

Accordingly, amendments to actions for breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty based on negligence seeking to introduce allegations of fraud, conspiracy to defraud, fraudulent breach of trust and intentional breach of fiduciary duty more than six years after the last of the transactions in question took place were statute-barred.

The Court of Appeal so held, refusing to allow the contested amendments sought by the lenders in two conjoined appeals in actions in which the plaintiffs, Paragon Finance plc, were mortgage lenders and the defendants, Thakker & Co and Thimbleby & Co, respectively, were firms of solicitors acting both for the lenders and the borrowers in the purchase and mortgage of several flats at Vogan Mill, Docklands in 1990.

In this action the lenders granted mortgages to borrowers to purchase the flats in question at inflated prices. None of the borrowers subsequently went into occupation of the flats and each immediately defaulted on the loans. The lenders repossessed the flats and eventually resold them at a substantial loss.

In 1994 the lenders brought actions against the solicitors who acted in the transactions for both parties, pleading, inter alia, breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty alleging negligence but not dishonesty or deliberate wrongdoing.

Following the decisions of the House of Lords in South Australia Asset Management Corporation v York Montague Ltd [1997] AC 191 and Smith New Court Securities Ltd v Scrimgeour Vickers (Asset Management) Ltd [1997] AC 253, it became apparent that the lenders could not recover that part of the loss sustained as a result of the collapse of the residential property

market at the end of 1990 unless they established fraud. The lenders accordingly sought leave to amend to allege fraud by the solicitors. The applications were made more than six years after the last of the relevant transactions and were therefore prima facie time-barred.

same factual allegations as the common law claims for fraud and conspiracy to defraud. The equitable jurisdiction invoked was thus the concurrent jurisdiction. The new claims were not different causes of action but merely the equitable counterparts of the claims at common law.

The borrowers, who obtained the money by deceit and were the principal wrongdoers, were not the trustees not fiduciaries. If guilty of fraud, they could plead limitation.

It would be extraordinary if the lenders could not show that the solicitors had no reasonably arguable limitation defence. The solicitors should not be deprived of that defence by amendment.

In the Thimbleby case the solicitors appealed against the judge's finding that for the purposes of section 32 of the 1980 Act the lenders could not with reasonable diligence have discovered the fraud before March 21, 1991, and therefore the limitation period did not begin to run until that date.

The lenders submitted that they had acted reasonably throughout in concentrating on the first possession actions in the first place. There was no need for

urgency; they had almost six years to bring proceedings. That reasoning was misconceived. The question was not whether the lenders should have discovered the fraud sooner but whether they could with reasonable diligence have done so. The burden of proof was on them.

In the course of argument Lord Justice May observed that reasonable diligence had to be measured against some standard, but that the six year limitation period did not provide the relevant standard.

He suggested that the test was how a person carrying on a business of the relevant kind would act if he had adequate but not unlimited staff and resources and were motivated by a reasonable but not excessive sense of urgency. His Lordship agreed.

Whether one cause of action arose out of the same or substantially the same facts as another was held by the Court of Appeal in Welsh Development Agency v Redpath Dorman Long [1994] 1 WLR 1409 to be essentially a matter of impression.

In all our jurisprudence there was no sharper dividing line than that which separated cases of fraud and dishonesty from cases of negligence and incompetence.

Lord Justice Pill delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice May agreed.

Solicitors: Hamlin Slowe; Browne Jacobson, Nottingham.

Identification parade was not necessary

D v Director of Public Prosecutions

Before Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Bell

[Judgment July 19]

Where a witness had informally identified suspects by reference to clothing and approximate ages and where the suspect requested but was not given an opportunity to participate in an identification parade, in breach of paragraph 23 of Code D of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (s.66) Codes of Practice and the informal identification evidence was admitted, such a breach did not have an adverse effect on the fairness of proceedings.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing an appeal by way of case stated against the conviction by Exmouth Youth Court on March 19, 1998 of D of theft contrary to sections 1 and 7 of the Theft Act 1968.

The appellants were then arrested at the scene. The identification by the witness took place before, during and after the commission of an offence.

There was no suggestion that the police officers had directed the attention of the witness to the appellant and co-accused in breach of Code D.

Although there had been a breach of Code D23 the breach was not of such substance, having regard to the nature and quality of the identification evidence, for the court to conclude that by the admission of the evidence any unjust prejudice had been caused to D.

Having decided that the evidence of identification could be properly admitted, the justices then considered the quality of that evidence, and directed themselves as to the dangers of convicting on such identification evidence, with regard to the principle set down in R v Turnbull [1977] QB 244.

Mr David Sapiecha for D; the justices did not appear and were not represented. LORD JUSTICE ROSE said

that he was not persuaded that there was an identification in the present case within the terms of the Codes of Practice.

It was to be noted that the witness at no stage, to the police, or in his evidence, or by reference to name, identified the appellant or the co-accused.

What he did in his initial statement, repeated in the evidence before the court was describe the clothing and approximate ages of two young men whom he had seen. There was no doubt that acting on the information led the police to the two young men: see R v Ocar [1991] Crim LR 788.

In his Lordship's judgment, although clearly open to the defence to explore in the course of the trial, the question whether or not the two youths seen by the witness were in fact the two youths the police had arrested, there never was an actual identification by the witness.

Furthermore, this was a case where an identification parade could serve no useful purpose since clothing would be changed prior to the holding of a parade and those

standing on parade would be the same approximate age as the appellants.

Nothing bore on the facial appearance, or clothing, or build, or height, or manner of walking or moving, which had formed any part of what the witness had seen. There was nothing in what the witness had seen which formed any part of what could usefully be challenged in an identification parade.

His Lordship referred to R v Popat (The Times April 10, 1998) where Lord Justice Hobhouse had held that the court should decide whether the holding of a parade would serve any useful purpose.

In his Lordship's judgment the justices were not wrong in concluding that there had been a breach of the Codes of Practice and were entirely correct to exercise their discretion to admit evidence.

To have excluded the evidence would have had an adverse effect on the proceedings. Mr Justice Bell agreed. Solicitors: Rundle Walker, Exeter.

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Board should show... (Large advertisement on the right side of the page, partially cut off)

THE TIMES EDUCATION

Smart schools race ahead with clever profits

A new survey says schools thrive on extracurricular cash, reports Iola Smith

The tuckshop, sports fields and even the stately piles in which many independent schools are based play an increasingly important part in keeping fees down, according to the first full comparison of the schools' finances.

Inspection reports and league tables now mean that schools can easily compare themselves to their peers, but financial information has been harder to come by. PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) found that larger independent schools performed well financially during 1996-97. The sample of 79 independent schools across Britain, all of which had more than 600 pupils, showed burars tapping sources of income that their predecessors would have never considered.

Residential courses and sales of sports equipment are bringing in much-needed revenue, as are the letting of facilities such as sports grounds and theatres. So important have these activities become that 13 per cent of schools derive more than 7 per cent of their income from trading. Yet some are achieving less than 1 per cent.

Boarding schools that take only boarders are best placed to exploit their facilities; day schools tend to lag behind. Tim Baines, PwC's Bristol-based partner who compiled the survey, says: "Trading income is a significant resource which can be used to fund development. Schools are quite rightly beginning to wake up to the fact that they have excellent but expensive facilities, perhaps being used for only part of the year."

"Making these facilities available to others throughout the year not only brings in extra income but lets potential parents see what is available."

The £10.9 million generated by trading at the surveyed schools in 1996-97 was 58 per cent more than the £6.9 million brought in by appeals and donations. The survey notes: "Considering the efforts which sometimes go into the latter, we question whether energies could be better directed." Increasing trading income can pose a cultural challenge, however.

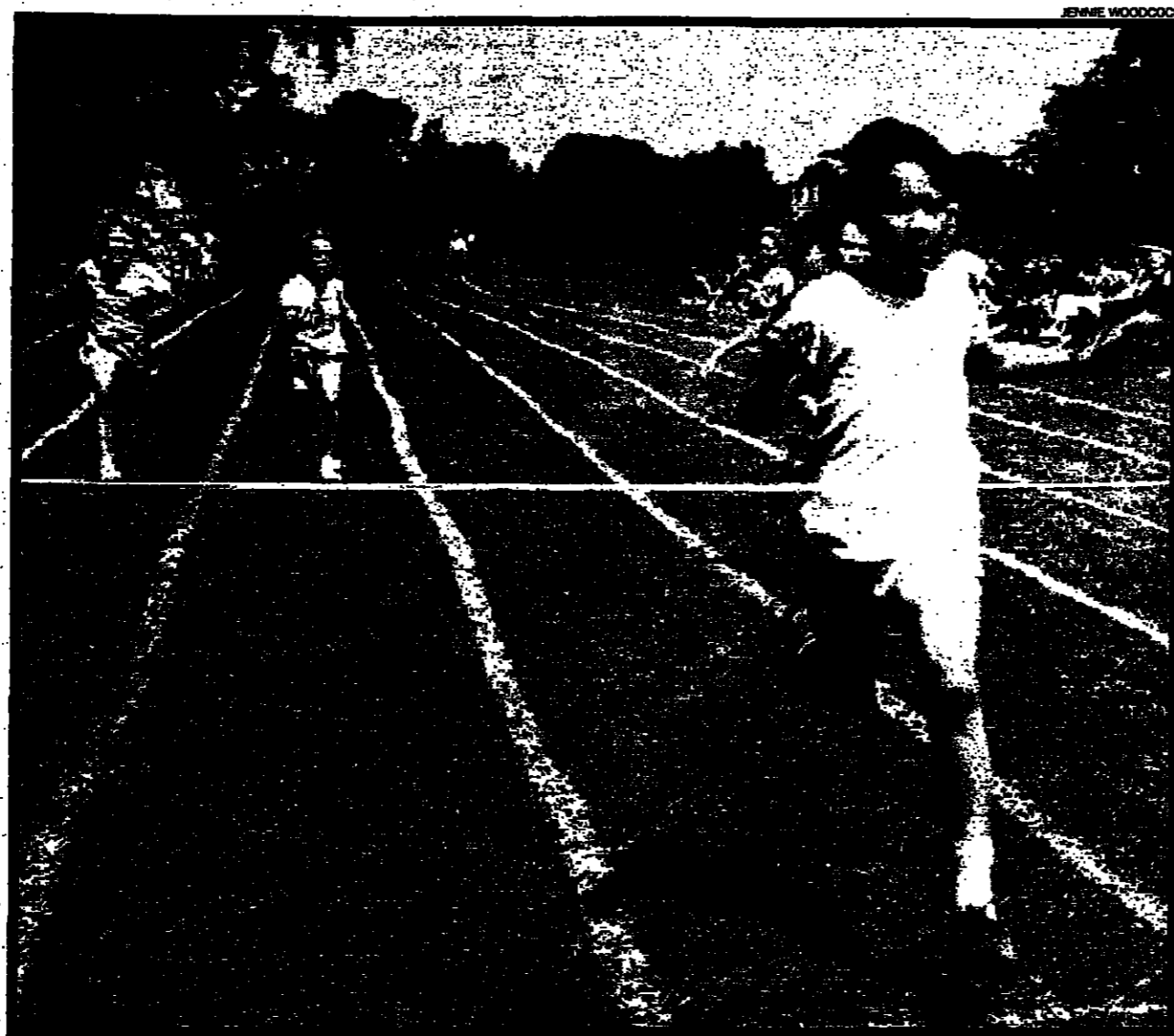
Should schools let sports fields in term-time, for example, or should they be available to fee-paying pupils at all times? "Schools need to find a balance," Mr Baines says. "Though they are not run for profit, they have to make hard decisions."

He recommends that boarding-only and day/boarding schools try to generate 7 per cent of their gross fees from trading and that day schools set a target of 3 per cent. Mr Baines finds a positive message in the regular rises in fees that enrage parents. He says: "Our findings suggest that these schools are in reasonable health, able to command steadily increasing fees. One readily accessible indicator of a school's financial health is its ability to increase fee income above inflation year on year. Our survey indicates that the net fee growth across the sector was 6.4 per cent in 1996-97."

That average figure, however, disguises differences in growth between schools of various sizes and types. The fastest growth was in schools of more than 750 pupils, particularly among those with a mix of boarders and day pupils.

Generating surpluses is the key to viability, and 94 per cent of the schools surveyed did so, banking a total of £27 million. In the boarding sector, this provided sums for development. PwC states: "We believe larger boarding schools remain financially secure, and able to cope with the national decline in boarder numbers."

Some boarding-only schools have probably been able to finance a three-year capital programme by investment gains alone. In total, they earned £20.8 million from their investments and spent £20.6 million on capital projects. Day and day/boarding schools, on the other hand, have not enjoyed



Winning ideas: independent schools are keeping costs down by exploiting their facilities

such large investment increases. Investment gains have been able to cover only 17 per cent of capital programmes.

Day schools also spend a higher proportion of their income on teaching staff — 56 per cent compared with 39 per cent in day/boarding schools and 36 per cent for pure boarders.

However, the report notes, however: "We would be concerned about day schools which spent more than 60 per cent of gross fees on teaching staff. Our survey would appear to indicate that other schools in the sector are achieving their results with much lower percentages."

"Similarly, we would be concerned about boarding and day/boarding schools which were spending less than 35 per cent of gross fees on teaching staff. This could indicate excessive overhead costs and less

being spent on teaching."

The average across-the-board spending on teachers is £26,100, including pension and employers' national insurance contributions. In boarding schools, the sum is slightly higher — £27,000 — to reflect the out-of-hours and pastoral activities that teachers perform.

On average, the survey found that there was one teacher for every nine pupils, but in some boarding schools the ratio was less than six to one. At the other end of the scale, 7 per cent of day schools had more than 12 pupils per teacher.

Unsurprisingly, welfare costs were higher in the boarding sector. The report suggests that if schools find that they have high welfare costs, they should consider contracting out some services, such as catering.

● The survey is available from PwC at Bull Wharf, Redcliff Street, Bristol BF1 6QR (£25).

Is the independent sector ready for inspection?

Private schools are to be officially monitored. Averil Burgess welcomes Labour's decision

Estelle Morris, the Schools Minister, last week announced new arrangements for the inspection of independent schools within the Independent Schools Council (ISC). This constitutes perhaps the most important step so far in the partnership between the maintained and independent sectors being developed by new Labour.

The inspection agreement, which has been working towards for several years, is of historic significance for schools, parents and the Government.

What makes it extraordinary is that it should have been reported in terms suggesting that a secretive and recalcitrant independent sector was being dragged into a new inspection regime it did not want.

Our schools, it is true, have always jealously guarded their independence. This preserved them from the wider educational theories fashionable in the 1960s and 1970s, and protected them from having to toe any local education authority line. What a good thing that turned out to be, now that practices we continued to use, such as whole-class teaching, phonics in the teaching of reading and emphasis on literacy and numeracy, are being reinstated. In education, independence is a virtue to be cherished, not an aberration to be ironed out.

Part of the special nature of independent schools comes from their relationship with parents, who are free to choose or to change a school according to whether or not it fulfils their expectations. This is a kind of quality control.

But parental pressure and approval are not enough on their own as an indication of quality, so the ISC in 1980 set up its own inspection system to inspect schools applying for membership of four of the five heads' associations within the ISC: once accredited, schools were inspected on a ten-year cycle to ensure that standards were being maintained, with the individual associations providing training and professional support. Teams of current or retired ISC heads with experience of similar schools are led, and reports written, by retired HMIs (schools inspectors).

In 1994, after the establishment of Ofsted, the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC) — the fifth of the ISC associations — set up its own inspection system based on a six-year cycle of peer review. All ISC schools not only submit willingly to this voluntary inspection, but do so at their own expense, an indication of how seriously they take the process. There are about 2,400 independent schools in Britain, of which 1,500 are in the ISC, educating between them 80 per cent of independent school pupils.

In 1995 ISC and HMC asked Ofsted to

examine their inspection systems and to make recommendations for improvement. Several operational improvements have now been put into practice to ensure objectivity, independence and the security of the evidence base. For ISC inspections, this also meant coming closer to Ofsted practice, adopting a six-year cycle and compulsory publication, after the associations' earlier acceptance of the need for summary reports to be made available to parents. The Ofsted evaluation also gave us the impetus to combine our inspection systems, so that from the year 2000, all ISC schools will be inspected according to the same Ofsted-approved criteria by the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

Something we are keen to preserve is the constructive relationship with our various head teachers' associations, because this has been a powerful tool for improvement in the schools. Ofsted's HMI commented warmly on the way in which the independent schools' inspections contributed to the development and improvement of member schools. Associations scrutinise responses and action plans, and may follow up inspections by visits; peer support is important to a head teacher when changes need to be made.

A key feature of ISC inspections that we want to keep is the detailed advice to heads after inspection.

The Department for Education and Employment and Ofsted officials have made sure that ISC inspections conform to their expectations for the inspection of independent schools, and will be monitoring our work carefully. At present, financial and manpower restrictions have brought an end to routine Ofsted inspections of independent schools. The new partnership frees Ofsted to give greater attention to the thousand or so schools that are not in any association. That can only be of benefit to parents, too. It means that the ISC will undertake for the Education Department the task of re-registration visits.

From the ISC schools' point of view, the agreement restores a crucial public assurance. It was the last Labour Government which, in 1979, abolished the system whereby independent schools could describe themselves as "recognised as efficient" by the Education Department. That action spurred us on to establish our own inspection system. It is ironic that it has taken another Labour Government, nearly 20 years later, to give formal recognition to a system that will give parents the same assurance.

● The author chairs the Independent Schools Inspectorate.



Averil Burgess: independence is a virtue to be cherished

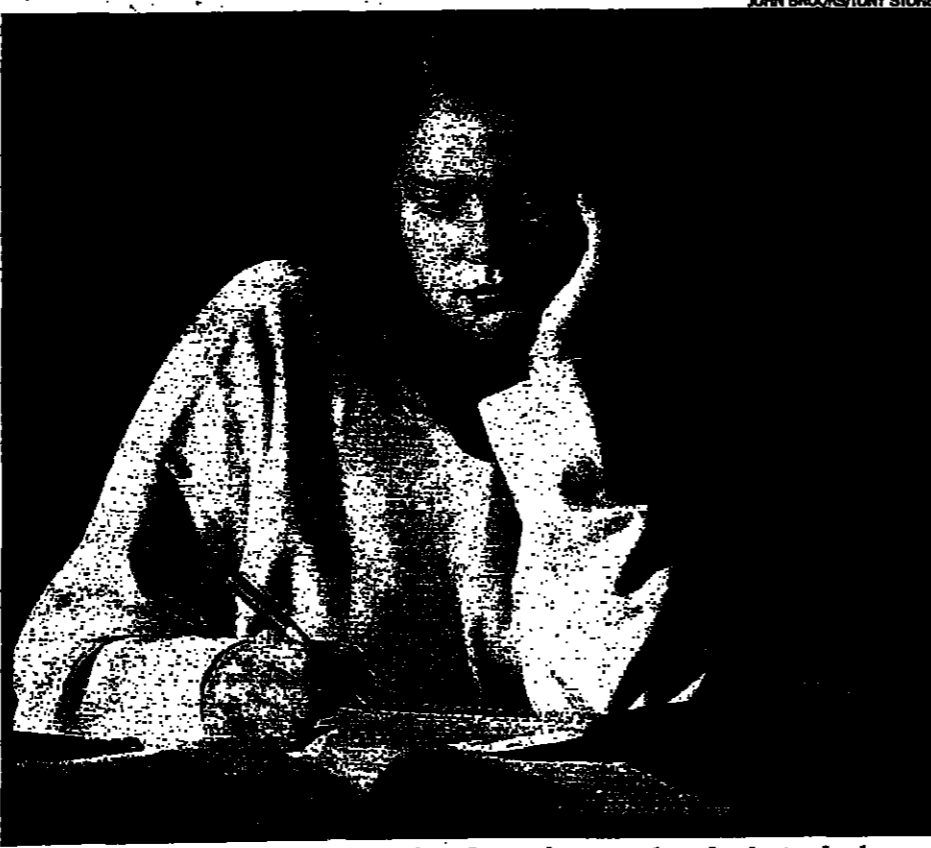
Board rigid: why schools should shop around for exams

Choosing an exam board is not easy, says Chris Ramsey

The unexpectedly sharp note from a parent said it all: "Is it true that my son is doing the most difficult board for his French A level? If it is, why is he doing it?"

Parental criticisms need to be dealt with promptly. No, it was not true; of course, no board was "easier" or "more difficult"; we had chosen a demanding and stimulating syllabus, and so on. I wonder if I really convinced him: we all know that "stimulating" equals hard and "accessible" means easy. So why had we chosen a particular board? Footishness? Intellectual snobbery? More to the point, why had we been allowed to choose?

At the start of the annual "grade award" process, a visiting Ofsted inspector asked some very good questions of the exam board for which I work. Why were our procedures so different from those of other boards? Was there a particular "type" of school who chose "us"? There was, and is, and we know who they are: another dodgy piece in a distinctly shady jigsaw ("Ah, here are good old St Cakes' papers").



Revising the myth: examination boards vary in cost and academic standard

schools Oxford and Cambridge. Some schools still operate in this way, with their "historic" board. Others have latched on to the possibilities of the open market.

But exams cost money. Affiliating to a board costs money. Many state schools cannot afford to affiliate to more than one board; most independent schools can. Most state school heads-of-department do the board they are told to; most independent school heads shop around. Indeed, some departments at my own school change boards more often than most people change clothing (my own department, I admit, leads the field).

All of which would not matter if there were real quality checks on syllabuses. But there are not. For all the teeth that the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority is supposed to have, there are wide variations in the difficulty of GCSE and A-level exams from board to board.

Some exams are modular, others terminal. Some have more papers than others, more set texts, less access to reference works allowed. Some schools have entered candidates for supposedly equivalent exams and gained markedly different results.

Apart from the manifest injustices of a large number of

awarding bodies, spare a thought for the ever more complicated job of the exam administrator in schools.

The days of taking a dozen or so subjects are over; at my school I calculate that several hundred different A-level exams were sat this year alone, including modules retaken, special options... the exam industry is big money. Indeed, the financial aspect of the exam season is easily forgotten: an A level is expensive to take and not cheap to administer. It was for financial reasons that the University of Cambridge exam syndicate refused to continue to finance two exam boards, but it may have done us all a favour, because there is more and more talk of lessening choice, of cutting back on the number of available syllabuses, even (a horrible thought) of one national board for A level, GCSE and GNVQ.

And why not? Why should private companies make money out of qualifications? If they are needed for some national purpose (and there is an argument for abolishing grades in favour of a baccalaureate-style pass/fail/merit system), then they should not be a matter of subjective opinion amid a Byzantine system of options, levels and administration. The cry would go up, of course: "No choice!"

But it's not a matter of choice. It's a matter of justice.

● The author, who is head of languages at Wellington College, is about to take up a post as Deputy Head of Cranleigh School.

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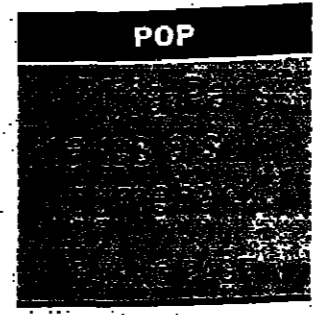
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CHANGING TIMES



FILM Bologna hails Douglas Fairbanks

THE TIMES ARTS



Some days you eat the bear; some days the bear eats you. That useful if alarming aphorism struck me yesterday as I contemplated the fate of Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary. For months the bear has slavered perilously close to the minister's little pinkies. The arts world, the press, even his own backbenchers, have moaned about his "nice but ineffectual" persona, his failure to wield the big stick at Covent Garden, his perceived inability to screw extra subsidy out of the tight-fisted Treasury mob. Indeed, many expected him to be dumped in Tony Blair's great summer clearout — demoted to Minister for Paper Clips, perhaps, or Chief Secretary of Socks.

But suddenly, on July 24, a transformation! Smith turned from wimp to champ in one glad dawn. He feasted on grizzly. He announced £290 million more for culture. He made a pledge to introduce free access to all national museums by 2001. He published no fewer than nine, yes nine, consultation papers proposing a vast shake-up in arts bureaucracy. He

It's not quite Champagne Chris just yet

kept his job; his critics were confounded; and even the ranks of Tuscany could scarce forbear to cheer. And it was his 47th birthday.

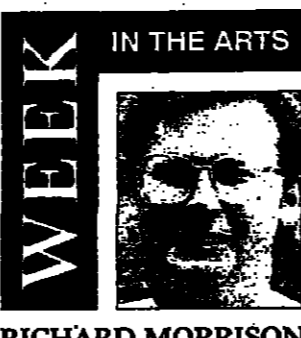
A fortnight has passed; and I have now read those nine consultation papers. Sorry for taking so long — but good grief, you try struggling through them. Where on earth do civil servants learn to write sentences like: "They will provide for streamlined efficient delivery mechanisms which are properly accountable and which can ensure that public money is spent appropriately in pursuit of key public policy objectives and in line with the Government's wish to see modernisation and investment for the reform"? Heaven only knows. Is there a Royal College of Waffling?

It's not the prose style that worries me, however; it's the substance. Or rather, the filmsiness of it, concealed by puffed-up presentation. Let's start with that famous

£290 million increase in subsidy — which will, according to Smith, "end years of reduced or standstill funding". It certainly seems a massive sum, far more than the entire annual Arts Council budget.

But unfortunately the figure is derived, bizarrely and deceptively, by totalling all the accumulated extra money over the next three years. Confused? You're meant to be. The actual increase for the arts next year is a distinctly less jaw-dropping £30 million. And the increase for the year after, of 4.4 per cent, will barely cover inflation.

OK, these are still real increases, the first for years. For that, Smith deserves credit. But by conjuring up that £290 million figure he has raised expectations to unrealistic levels. Already the Royal Opera House board members have demanded a £15 million hike in their annual subsidy in order to reopen next year. If they get it, that's half



RICHARD MORRISON

of the arts world's extra £30 million gone at a stroke.

What, then, of the pledge of free museum admission? Isn't that indisputably a Good Thing? Not necessarily. The boss of the Natural History Museum, for instance, was dismayed by Smith's pledge. "We have charged for 11 years,"

said Neil Chalmers. "We have record attendances. And charging has meant that we have had to be more responsive to our visitors, because expectations are higher."

That's a vital point. Everyone agrees that kids should get into museums free. That makes educational sense. But when it comes to adults, why should museums — uniquely in the arts — be exempt from the healthy stimulus of attracting a paying public? Smith says that he is "wholly committed to plural funding for the arts". Yet he proposes to eliminate a huge source of funds for museums — punters' ticket money — and make them even more reliant on government handouts. It doesn't add up.

Next, Smith complains of inheriting "a landscape of quangos", which he wants to simplify. Fair enough. In particular, he thinks the Arts Council has become "too bureaucratic". Despite the fact that

he has only just appointed a chairman to overhaul the Council from within, Smith now wants to replace it altogether with... well, with something that sounds exactly like the Arts Council.

That seems like a recipe for years of fiddling. There's more. No sooner has Smith pronounced the excess of cultural quangos than he wants to create a new one: a "tough new watchdog", answerable to him, that will check up on all the other quangos. It's a grim prospect: an endless daisy-chain of arts bureaucrats, all scrutinising each other's clipboards.

Smith pays lip service to the "arm's length principle", and says that he wants a lot more subsidy devolved to "powerful new cultural groupings" in the regions. Yet elsewhere he complains that "expenditure and expenditure decisions are largely in the hands of bodies out-

side the Department... this has resulted in little strategic direction from the centre".

You can't have it both ways. He even goes on to make the extraordinary assertion that strategic leadership in the cultural field is something that "only a Department of State can provide". Stalin thought that, too. But in this country, for some reason, we generally prefer our artists not to accept "strategic leadership" from Government.

For all their faults, Smith's consultation papers should at least spark a debate. The danger is that, with the mythical "extra £290 million" so loudly trumpeted, all those hundreds of near-bankrupt arts organisations out there now expect big improvements to come quickly. When Labour came to power there was a similarly naive expectation that "the cultural climate" would be transformed overnight. That didn't happen, and Smith was hit by a winner of discontent. If he fails to deliver this time, he will surely come to rue what he promised on his 47th birthday. The bear is still out there, prowling and peckish.

Return of the roguish hero

FILM: With swashbucklers back in vogue, Geoff Brown welcomes a tribute to the master of them all

He exuded innocence, self-confidence, vitality and grinned from ear to ear. There was no villain he could not worst with a sword; no ship's rigging or castle wall that he could not climb within seconds, and all with a baller dancer's grace. His name was Douglas Fairbanks, and he once, in the Teens and Twenties, had the world at his feet, like his wife Mary Pickford ("America's Sweetheart"). Audiences flocked to see him in *The Mark of Zorro*, *The Three Musketeers* or *The Thief of Bagdad*; though whatever his character, he was always Doug, athletic, irrepressible, all-American.

But that was then; this is now, when it takes a festival like Bologna's Il Cinema Ritrovato, dedicated to film history and archive restorations, to bring his collected works to public view. Of historical interest only, then? Not a bit. As I renewed acquaintance with *The Black Pirate* from 1926, and watched Doug dash up and down the high seas, rings in his ears, muscles rampant, tunic bared to the chest, I kept thinking of Kevin Costner. He could easily remake this film, rings, bare chest and all.

For after a long period of neglect, romantic swashbucklers are in vogue, and Fairbanks's vehicles are regularly being dragged out of the Hollywood garage for overhaul. Antonio Banderas is currently righting wrongs in *The Mask of Zorro*, due here in December. Costner has already portrayed *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*. And D'Aragnan's team saved the French throne in two recent versions of *The Man in the Iron Mask*.

The books and myths that fuelled Fairbanks's action films can be adapted easily for the modern screen. But Fairbanks's innocent panache is unique, born with the century and its new entertainment medium, cinema, and it cannot be recaptured. Today's action heroes are Post-Modern chaps, puncturing heroics with spoofery. Whether leaping, grinning or dancing with his sword, Doug does everything for real. In computer-speak, he is wysiwyg — what you see is what you get — and his career declined only at the

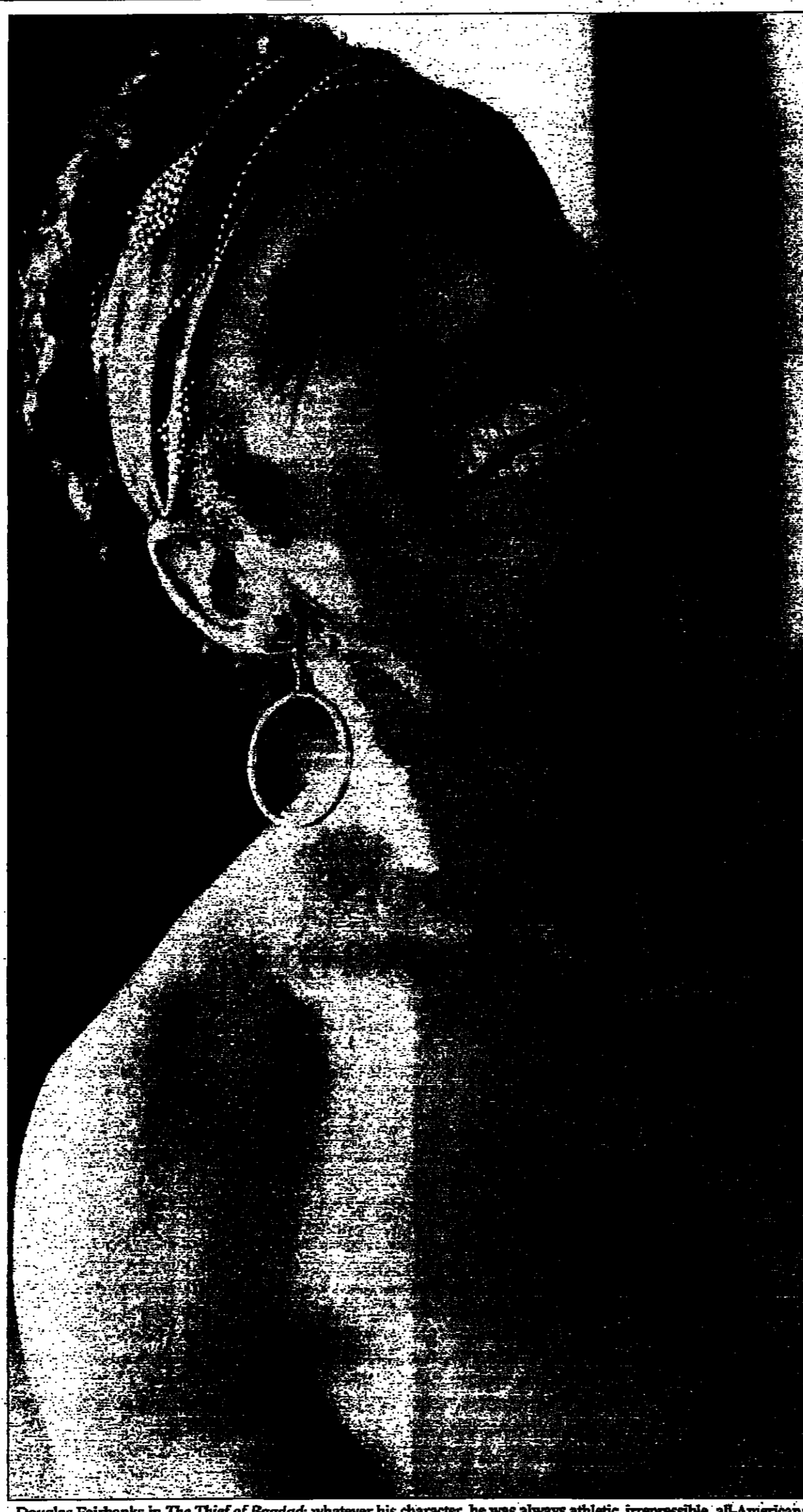
end of the Twenties when audiences started seeing something unintended: a middle-aged man, a man ejected by the talkies from the silent universe of gods and goddesses, talking like ordinary mortals.

It did not suit, though in *The Taming of the Shrew*, a misguided vehicle for himself and Pickford, he at least pitched Shakespeare with more gusto than his wife. Neither found a home in the talkies. They separated, divorced and faded from memory; after Fairbanks died in 1939, only the screen presence of his son, Douglas Fairbanks Jr, reminded audiences of his existence.

Yet there remains something very modern about Fairbanks. Consider the progress of his career. He comes to the movies in 1915 from the stage and finds instant success, not as an actor but as a charismatic personality. He is that

emerging, crucial new phenomenon, a film star. Within a year, in 1916, he has the muscle to form his own company and control all aspects of production. He finds his success in a modest sphere, breezy social comedies, but then gets ambitious and starts swashbuckling. The films get bigger. Scenes start to stultify into tableaux, and Fairbanks's close-ups get fewer. *The Thief of Bagdad* may strike the right balance between star and setting, but *Robin Hood* now seems absurdly set-heavy, dead as the doo. It doesn't take a crystal ball to see films like *Blade Runner*, even *Godzilla*, looming horribly in the distance.

Even watching *The Black Pirate*, in two-colour Technicolor, you crave to see Doug leap about, dagger between his teeth, on a much smaller canvas. Impossible to be bored, though; not least because the Bologna screening resurrected the charming original music by Mortimer Wilson, a fantasia on sea songs that oddly found room on *Campio Races*. Most other screenings of silent films were accompanied by a trusty piano; too many were also accompanied by slapdash projection. It seems bizarre that archives should spend so much effort securing the best possible print of their films only to sit helpless, unconcerned even, as the print is ruined by



Douglas Fairbanks in *The Thief of Bagdad*: whatever his character, he was always athletic, irrepressible, all-American

projector aperture problems or painfully slow reel changes.

Aside from the leaping Doug, Il Cinema Ritrovato — organised jointly by the film archives of Bologna and The Netherlands — rediscovered the usual delights and disappointments. Arthur Robison and Albin Grau's *Schatzen*, one of the key works of German Expressionist cinema, usually known here as *Warning Shadows*, was released from the textbooks, only to

prove stifflingly artificial and a crushing bore. Then we glimpsed the films of Paul Leni, an unjustly neglected figure who shared some Expressionist habits, but animated his shadows, bizarre sets and distorted camera angles with a poetic vigour few other Germans managed. Like many others, he was imported to Hollywood in the late Twenties, creating something magical, and influential, out of the stage chiller *The Cat and the*

Canary. The lavish melodrama *The Man Who Laughs* was also memorable, provided you were in the mood for a kinky Victor Hugo tale about a 17th-century English clown, his face distorted into a permanent grin by malevolent gypsies. Conrad Veidt did the grinning honours here.

Sometimes it was the forgotten little item that pleased most of all. Take *The Country Doctor*, a rural melodrama of 1927 featuring Rudolph Schild-

kraut, a big stage star, directed by Rupert Julian, not a man usually taken seriously. Sounds dire. I know. But it was human, neatly crafted, and charmed the pants off everyone. You can never predict what time will do to a film.

● Fairbanks's *The Thief of Bagdad* will be revived with a live orchestra in December at the Festival Hall. A later version of the *Robin Hood* legend, *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, starring Errol Flynn, is released in cinemas today.

Mixed blessings in a double act

With an increasing number of pianists seem to turn to conducting, most enjoy parallel careers rather than perform both roles simultaneously. Yet Jean-Bernard Pommier took up the challenge in Wednesday's Prom when, as artistic director of the Northern Sinfonia, he both conducted and played with the Newcastle-based band. His double act proved a mixed blessing: this account of Chopin's *Piano Concerto No 1* cried out for a soloist able to focus more intently on the virtuoso part and a conductor able to devote all energy to the accompaniment.

Which is not to say that the performance failed, only that it could have been more stylish. With a smaller than usual orchestra, led by just six first violins, the music took on a chamberlike intimacy, encouraging some lively dialogue between the instruments.

But the solo part is demanding over long stretches, seldom leaving a free hand for the helpful directions that were needed here when ensemble got shaky. The best moments included the pliant orchestral introduction and everyone's delicate playing in the nocturne-like slow movement; but the finale's rhythms could have been fiercer, and one was reminded just how long the work is — something better performances disguise.

Pommier was able to concentrate solely on the orchestra in John Casken's *Maharal Dreaming*, making this first London performance the highlight of the evening. The occasion was long overdue: Cas-

PROMS

ken's piece is already more than nine years old, having been composed at the same time as his opera *Golem*, with which it shares its subject and some material. Maharal is the mythical rabbi who uses cabalistic powers to create a huge man, the golem, from a lump of clay, and this performance evoked all the images of his fevered dream.

Casken, composer in association of the Northern Sinfonia, draws a wide and vivid range of colours from very modest orchestral forces. He uses dark sonorities to suggest heavy slumbering, but grotesque little visions are soon conjured up in the flurries of notes that dominate this fluid piece. Everything subsides to quiet throbbing and the music simply ebbs away; there is not a note too many in this finely crafted score.

Early Rossini and late Mozart completed the concert, though in this neat performance but the finale's Symphonic No 40 in G minor the dramatic characteristic of the last works was muted. But the orchestra was right on target in the overture to *The Italian Girl in Algiers*, which delivered all the sparkling virtuosity and wicked humour promised by a suspenseful start.

JOHN ALLISON

Plainsong from old Spice Girls

As a marketing exercise it was brilliant: a dozen raunchy young women singing ancient madrigals and Latin plainsong and coming on like the Spice Girls set loose in the court of Henry VIII. They appealed to readers of *Gramophone*, enjoyed a blizzard of lubricious publicity and their first album *Salva Nos*, titillatingly decorated with a series of semi-nude poses alongside the religious medieval poetry, became a Christmas novelty best-seller.

Yet a year on that novelty value has worn a little thin. With a second album imminent, the Baebes now face the uphill struggle of attempting to prove that they are serious as well as comely. At the Jazz Café, in front of a largely male audience, they showed that they are certainly an eye-ful, but they also hinted that there might be more to them than first meets the ear.

They have dispensed with their original white robes for more exotic costumes in crushed velvet and scarlet. Their microphone stands were bedecked with garlands as was their hair and they generated a distinctly kitsch feeling, as if they were the entertainment at a fake-medieval-themed banquet. Chunks of cod medieval poetry did nothing to dispel the impression and their pretty-sounding voices often lacked texture, while many of the arrangements were one-dimensional.

Yet they have two trumps

CONCERT

up their fragrant sleeves. The first is Katharine Blake, 27, the group's leader and arranger, and the only Baebe with any formal musical training. Her solo vocal on *Adieu Lullaby* had far more attack than anything they sang as a chorus and the arrangements on such new material as the spooky *How Death Comes* suggest she has learnt a lot over the past year.

But their ace is Dorothy Carter, at 63 the most venerable Baebe of them all, and someone they push to the fore in photo sessions. Yet her playing on a variety of antique instruments was exemplary and when she sang *Cuckoo* accompanied only by her dulcimer while the other Baebes sat in a circle, she injected a passion lacking in much of the rest of the performance. This was medieval soul music.

The Baebes are never going to cut it in the classical world: nor do they wish to do so. Yet they could have a decent future on the folk circuit, where over the years artists such as the Pentangle and Steeleye Span have managed to interest in medieval music reworked in a more straightforward context remains strong.

WILLIAMSON

Boys V

PERSONAL

Y

W

Boys with a Britpop hangover

Future sounds

THE SUPERNATURALS
A Tune A Day
(Food EMI 7243 4 96066, £16.49)

COMBINING fun-loving instincts and catchy tunes with a knowing attitude redolent of groups such as Lightning Seeds, the Boo Radleys and Dug Pigeons, the Supernaturals can't help but seem like a bit of a hangover from the heady days of Britpop. The Glasgow band's second album, *A Tune A Day*, is stuffed with effervescent, guitar-driven songs, written and sung in a generic, indie-kid voice by James McCall.

The boy-meets-girl lyrics are determinedly parochial and down to earth, though not without their moments of wit — "If you think that I'm a cretin/Then that is upsetting" — while the choruses of songs such as their current hit, *I*



The Supernaturals: their songs are long on down-to-earth boy-meets-girl values and capable of occasional bursts of wit, but a bit short on original vision and broader ambition

NEW POP ALBUMS

Wasn't Built To Get Up, eventually prisms their way into the most pop-resistant ears. But while these are the sorts of numbers that will always be good value halfway through the singles chart show, or ringing out from a festival stage during the late afternoon, stick them end to end on an album and the band's lack of original vision and broader ambition quickly become apparent.

Without wishing to encourage the grandiose pretensions that are the stock-in-trade of groups such as Embrace, it is hard not to feel emotionally short-changed when one of the Supernaturals' more anthemic songs climaxes with such a resoundingly ordinary lyric as "It's OK, it's alright/It doesn't matter any more". Amid undemanding ditties about the woes of getting up in the morning and the pleasures of listening to country music, the deepest it gets is on *VW Song*, when McCall sings "If I'm going to nowhere/It might as well be with you." Think again on that one, lads.

VARIOUS ARTISTS

The Avengers: The Album (Atlantic 7567-83118, £15.49) WITH very little of the music from this album actually featuring in the imminent Hollywood makeover of *The Avengers*, thanks to a last-minute change of heart by the movie's executive producers, this is not quite the "original soundtrack" that the British producer Marius de Vries envisaged.

Be that as it may, *The Avengers: The Album* is still a bold and imaginative collection of new and otherwise unavailable material by some of British pop's less conspicuously exposed talents of recent years, including Annie Lennox (performing an eerie Sugarbushes song called *Mama*), Stereo MCs (a slow, moody groove called *Flash*), Utah Saints (an infectious rock/dance stomp titled *Technology*, featuring a sample from Iggy Pop's *Search And Destroy*) and the Verve Pipe (performing *Blow You Away* co-written by Andy Partridge of XTC).

De Vries himself updates *The Avengers Theme*, harnessing Laurie Johnson's orches-

tral spy/top show theme to a galloping big beat rhythm track, a combination that perfectly mirrors the movie's classic bowler hat and kinky leather casuist visual tag. With other new tracks by Roni Size, Babybird, Suggs, Sinead O'Connor and Grace Jones, it is a package brimming with drama and kitsch.

MICA PARIS
Black Angel
(Cooltempo/EMI 7243 4 95813, £12.49)

DOES anyone still remember

Mica Paris? Fêted as the big hope of British soul ten years ago, she failed to build on the momentum established by her first, platinum-certified album, *So Good*. But now, after a lengthy break, she returns on a new record label with a fourth album, *Black Angel*, amid upbeat talk of reclaiming her "artistic freedom".

While she has undoubtedly broken free of the super-slick American-style production which has suffocated her talent in the past, she still has not come up with a collection of

songs that does justice to her extraordinary vocal prowess. Among a mixture of new numbers, many co-written by Paris herself, and out-of-the-way cover versions including the Isley Brothers' *Don't Say Goodnight* and Sly Stone's *Stay*, the high points are the title track (an Aretha-ish love song co-written by Boy George) and *Carefree*, a twangy, neo-reggae strut that is pumped full of self-belief. Despite such heartening sentiments, the feeling that she may have missed the boat continues to linger.

sensitivity through her first solo album, *Boy For You*, she nevertheless turns in some finely honed songs on the theme of love and other aspects of the personal relationship game.

Recorded in New Orleans, a location at some remove from

the Shetland Islands where Astrid was born and brought up, the album, like her voice, inhabits a post-Alanis, folk-rock no man's land. With songs ranging from the wistful stillness of *Someone* to the rootsy electric guitar and har-

monica fills of *World At Your Feet*, it is neither bitter, shockingly intimate nor angry, but commands affection instead for its old-fashioned virtues of sincerity and simplicity.

DAVID SINCLAIR

It was strange to see a score of musicians file out on stage for drum'n'bass band 4 hero's debut UK gig. Composed by a pair of studio producers, who are also the group's only permanent members, 4 hero's soulful, jazz-influenced songs are wholly created by programming computers, not working with real instruments. Moreover, as British techno innovators, main men Dejo MacFarlane and Mark Mac had been more at ease in a club than in the sombre surrounds of a seated auditorium. As soon as the show started, however, it became clear that this was to be an ensemble performance, ideally consumed like a classical concert rather than a rave.

POP GIG

Work, then remixed for release by Mac and MacFarlane. Already a dance classic, 4 hero's version hinges on sharply executed strings keeping time to smooth drum'n'bass beats.

To watch the track performed live was a treat. Six violinists and two cellists played with a precision which was at odds with the fluid groove at the centre of the song. Suddenly, the contrast between 4 hero and Roni Size's Reprazent became clear. Both innovate electronic music by fusing futuristic techno with the familiar sounds of jazz and soul. However, while Size's songs retain the clinical, polished edge of early computer music, 4 hero have hit on a more harmonious mix. The result is an orchestra for the 21st century.

The rest of the hour-long set consisted of songs from 4 hero's recently released second album, *Two Pages*, now a Mercury Prize nominee. A heavily pregnant Ursula Rucker, the Philadelphia-based dub poetess whose sultry, silken vocals graced the group's groundbreaking single *Lowless*, was the first of three female singers to make an appearance. The core of 4 hero remained hidden at the back of the stage.

LISA VERRICO

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- (2) *Talk on Corners* — Corrs (Atlantic)
- (1) *Jane McDonald* — Jane McDonald (Focus Music Int)
- (6) *International Velvet* — Cassandra (Stanzio y Negro)
- (3) *Postcards from Heaven* — Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)
- (4) *Decadance* — Eagle-Eye Cherry (Polydor)
- (12) *Where We Belong* — Boyzone (Polydor)
- (3) *Let's Talk About Love* — Celine Dion (Epic)
- (10) *Life Thru a Lens* — Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
- (8) *Version 2.0* — Garbage (Mushroom)
- (5) *Bliss* — Simply Red (East West)

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ASTRID

Boy For You (Nude NUDE 10, £10.99) IT BEGINS with a chiming acoustic guitar and the most arresting line of the album: "Cocaine and chocolate won't keep you alive/But they might fill you up when you feel deprived". And while singer-songwriter Astrid Williamson, formerly of Goya Dress, does not maintain that quotable in-

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CHANGING TIMES

Personal stereos let us create the soundtrack to our interior lives

It was in a magazine a couple of years ago. I can't remember who it was. Some kind of astrophysics bloke; or maybe someone arty, but in a fearfully cerebral way — someone between Steven Berkoff and Stephen Hawking. The interviewer asked him what he considered to be the greatest invention of the 20th century and this Walking Brain name-checked bombs and medicines and microchips, as one would expect, before suddenly snapping in mid-sentence.

He apparently fixed the journalist with a giddy-eyed beam, and said: "But personally, I think it's the Walkman. To be able to walk across mountains with Wagner in your ears! What real magic! I've spoken to Arctic explorers who've sat in tents, with their fingers and toes black with frostbite, looking out into an absolute white void. And then they've put in their little penny-sized earphone and listened to *Jumpin' Jack Flash* by the Stones and they started to thrill to their adventure again. Personal stereos allow us to soundtrack our lives. They allow us all to become film stars in our own private movies. They allow us to escape into our own invention — music. They allow us all to transcend. For £30?"

I've zizzed it up a bit, but that's the essence of it. And I thought, what a duffer! And to spend your whole life looking at stars, or germs, or brumman reasoning through botfly lenses; but still to have a sense of the way that some dumb fun thing can

Your own private wonderland

change the way we experience actuality. You've never really had music until you listen to it with headphones on: the debut is similar to the way people talk about smoking crack for the first time. You just go up in flame. And so the first time you put a personal stereo on, and go up in flame in a shopping centre, say, you feel like that picture of the Tibetan monk self-immolating, as people walk by. You are possessed, but everything outside remains flat and the same. And so you start walking — to the bass, to the drums — swollen and hot and high.

Wittgenstein would have agreed. In order to take a break from inventing how language pre-determines the way we experience life, he used to slink into cinemas and watch anything and everything, the schlockier, the better. But always from the front seat, so that he was immersed. He would have loved personal stereos; he would have spent all day

jogging and listening to *Definitely Maybe* and punching the air. Actually, as Wittgenstein was Austrian, he probably would have been into the Scorpions. No — he was a schlock-lover. It would have been handbag house. Dr Al-barn's rousing tampon anthem *It's My Life* would have been a big turning point for Wittgenstein. If he were alive now, he would be busy trying to work out how *The Temperer* featuring Maya experience life via the lyrics "Whars she going to look like with a chimney on her?".

I even love the bits about personal stereos you're supposed to hate. One of the prime late 20th-century means is that of Walkman leakage on crowded buses and trains. An endless line of dullard comedians have yarbled on the grating "Tssss-bang-bang-bang-tsssss". Mocked spotty teens privately head-banging on greasy InterCity seats. Verbally

showed tired office girls for quietly singing along to Celine Dion. I think Walkman leakage is brilliant. It's like unwittingly stepping into a national game of *Name That Tune*. Next time your train is stuck in a siding, awaiting the arrival of an entire new braking system, try walking up and down the aisles. Have a packet of Maltasers in your pocket and award yourself one for each muffled song you correctly identify. It expands your musical tastes wonderfully.

Other people's personal stereos is how I got into drum'n'bass and, admittedly, B'witched. And never, ever, not even in your head, grimace at someone for singing publicly. One of the wisest things my mother ever did was thrash me after I teased my little brother for wandering around singing Dire Straits' *Money For Nothing*. Except he had changed the lyrics to "Money for nothing/And your chips for free".

"A child only sings when it's happy," she explained, flaying the back of my legs with a *Thomson's Directory*. "Don't ever make them self-conscious, or they'll never sing again." And she was right. If we can get people to sing on public transport; if there are people warbling Adam Ant while stuck half a mile underground in August heatstroke hell, then we, as a society, have won. The bloffing bloke was right: the personal stereo probably is one of our greatest inventions. Even Viagra doesn't do that.

CAITLIN MORAN

Fixed blessing in a double at

Plain-song in old Spice Gigs

LISTINGS

Berkeley at the Proms

RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by James Christopher

LONDON BBC PROMS: Radon Sheehran, one of the top composers of last year's Proms, presents his new commission, Four Russian Songs for Symphony Orchestra, Dmitry Sitkovetsky conducts the pieces for the Ulster Orchestra tonight (7.30pm). Tomorrow Melvyn Tan conducts the world premiere of Michael Berkeley's The Garden of Earthly Delights, inspired by Hieronymus Bosch, for the National Youth Orchestra (7.30pm). On Sunday, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus led by Mark Elder play Prokofiev's massive, noisy Cantata for the Twentieth Anniversary of the October Revolution against Britain's elegy, Sinfonia da Requiem (7.30pm). Albert Hall (0171-589 8212). (C)

THE CLOWNS: Paula Wilton plays an ex-star who bamboozles herself in a bucket to relieve incidents in her life as actress, lover, mother and daughter. Geoff Reininger's one-woman show promises to be both passionate and funny. Gaiety, W11 (0171-223 0706). Tonight, 7.30pm. Until August 28.

GERSHWIN CENTENARY CELEBRATION: Paul Gemignani introduces a night of Gershwin. Featured items include Cabaret Overture, Rhapsody in Blue, Lullaby for Strings, and An American in Paris. Ian Sutherland conducts the National Symphony Orchestra. Anthony Goldstone strikes the keys. Komrood Lakeside, NW3. Tomorrow, 7.30pm. (C)

PAUL WELTER: PAUL WELTER QUAYEAM DURY: The good, the bad and the ugly (not necessarily in that order) join forces to headline the London rock festival. The inimitable Dury is back with his Bloodheads. Carlsen

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only if some seats available. Seats at all prices

CLOSER THAN EVER: The satirical Richard Maltby/David Shire musical, set in a New York subway train. Cast includes Helen Bonner, Jeremy Shone, SW1 (0171-237 2878).

ROOM AT THE TOP: Lumpy production of the John Braine novel on social climbing in the 1950s. Roy Marsden directs stage premiere with Simon Lengua as the upwardly mobile Joe Lampton. King's Head, N1 (0171-226 1918). (C)

AFTER DARWIN: Timberlake Wertenbaker's excellent play, casting light on race and class in America's Bible Belt. Directed by the critics but audiences are happy. Stars Marcus Lovett and Luba Mayorga. Gale Edwards directs. Aldeyay, WC2 (0171-416 6000).

SHAKESPEARE'S VILLAINS: Steven Berkoff explores the Bard's vainglorious villains, and a few contemporary ones to boot. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-589 8900).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the best movies

NEW RELEASES THE ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD (U): Erol Fyryn leaps through Sherwood Forest in Hollywood's swiftest reinvention of 1993. With Kevin Costner, Brian Dennehy, and Claude Rains. Directors: Michael Curtiz and William Keighly.

ARMAGEDDON (PG): Oil diller Bruce Willis and his roughneck crew strike out into space to save the world. Absurdly childish, and enjoyable. Blockbuster. With Bill Paxton, Ben Affleck, and Liv Ullmann. Director: Michael Bay.

TO HAVE & TO HOLD (R): Obsessive love in Papua New Guinea. Melodramatic tale told with lush images of high style and serious intent. With Tahiry Kano and Rachel Griffiths. Director: John Hillcoat.

THE TRAVELLERS (R): Young football fans set off for the season's big match. British premiere of Iranian master Abbas Kiarostami's typically eloquent first feature, made in 1974.

ZERO EFFECT (R): On-base, overly artificial detective thriller, with Bill Pullman as an eccentric private eye

DOCTOR DOLITTLE (PG): Doctor Eddie Murphy finds a new lease of life talking to his animals. Rude family comedy, a long way from Hugh Loftin's stories.

LOST IN SPACE (PG): Adventures in space with the Robinson family. Based on a 1950s TV series, with William Hurt and Gary Oldman.

PSYCHO (R): Janet Leigh checks into the Bates Motel, but does she know what she's getting into? Director: Alfred Hitchcock.

THE CASTLE (R): Dismantling of an Australian mansion about a family fighting the compulsory purchase of their house. With Michael Caton. Director: Rob Sitch.

GOZZILLA (PG): How, one wonders, do the authorities keep misapplying a doomsday night mutant? Directed by Roland Emmerich.

ARTS

Growing up with wolves

Rudyard Kipling enjoyed the firmest of grips on the face of his Jungle Book stories. Since Disney stole the blueprint and replaced it in 1967 with one of the best cartoon films ever made, Mowgli is engraved on our imagination as the cheeky cub who gets the better of George Sanders' voiceover by tying a flaming stick to the tail of the mangle-tiger, Shere Khan. In the unexpected afternoon heat in Regent's Park the New Shakespeare Youth Theatre gave a rather more formal account of Kipling's strange and occasionally bloody stories. Antony Tuckey has adapted this rite-of-passage story to include chapters of Mowgli's life after he has been adopted by villagers and when he returns to the jungle to save his beloved wolfpack. The obvious point is a sense of Mowgli growing up. The unobvious point is a grown-up inability to swallow these small leaps of imagination.

Because there are four Mowglis, young kids can get a little cross-eyed and disoriented. Adult thoughts wander towards the bar, and the piano arrangements, inadvertently put one in mind of the end-of-term revues. Songs like the Law of the Jungle are rendered like classroom hymns. Kitted out in red shirts, red slacks and speckled baseball caps, an army of schoolchildren thrust their knuckles and

THEATRE



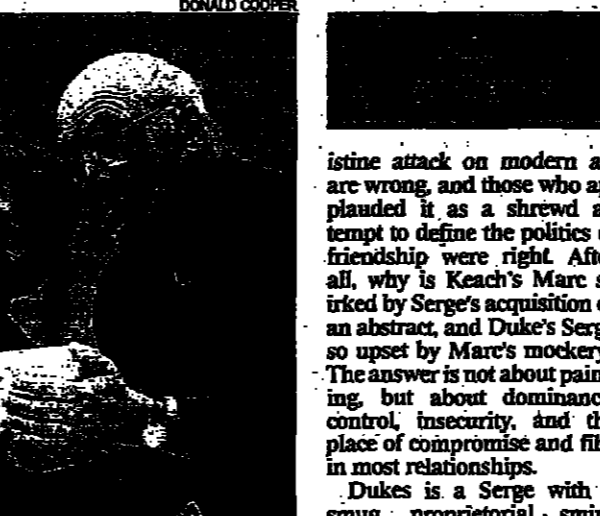
The Jungle Book. "Kipling's strange and occasionally bloody stories", in Regent's Park

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

The high price of friendship

Must the characters in a play by a Frenchman and set in Paris really talk like Albert Finney, Tom Courtenay or the other British actors who have made it a serial success? Of course not. So there is every reason, at least in principle, for importing the three Americans who have just taken over the guidance systems at Wyndham's Theatre: Stacy Keach and George Wendt, both familiar from film and TV, and David Duke, a distinguished legit actor who sadly announces in the programme that he is "still best known as the man who attempted to rape Edith Sumner in All in the Family".

In principle — but what of the practice? There were times when I (though not a friend sitting further back than row G) found the new performers' cadences blurry. But the anger that ensues when Serge spends a small fortune on an



US trio: George Wendt, David Duke and Stacy Keach

all-white painting, and his chum Marc sneers at it, is more marked than I remember it having been before. And this is my fourth visit to Yasmina Reza's — well, not exactly

istine attack on modern art are wrong, and those who applauded it as a shrewd attempt to define the politics of friendship were right. After all, why is Keach's Marc so irked by Serge's acquisition of an abstract, and Duke's Serge so upset by Marc's mockery? The answer is not about painting, but about dominance, control, insecurity, and the place of compromise and fits in most relationships. Dukes is a Serge with a smug, proprietorial smirk that is clearly as irritating to Marc as Keach's whooping cackles of derision are to him. At any rate, Keach is duly maddened, to the point of snapping, barking and finally raging like John Cleese in full

black, but maybe off-white — comedy. It still strikes me as a fine piece. The more I see it, the clearer it is that those who originally damned it as a phil-

this comes from deep within, which is a pity, but it is an attempt more forthright than any British actor has yet made, to embody a hostility that eventually escalates into physical attack.

Then there is Wendt, whose big, crumpled face and overblown-heghehog frame continue to beep up reruns of Cheers. He plays Yvan, the piggy-in-the-middle who tries to reconcile his warring friends and only earns the scorn of both. I have seen the part played more articulately and more touchingly, but never with such quiet, downbeat humour. Think of a kindly manatee trying to understand why the propellers of not just one but two passing boats are mangling him — and, yes, you have another reason for welcoming the Americanisation of Art.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

THEATRE

Kipling in the park

Pain without the scars

Ben, a young Jewish playwright, has a confession to make to his live-in girlfriend, Lisa. Benevolent Nightingale writes. He has slept with someone else. "Do I know her?" asks Lisa, who is becoming successful in the management advisory business. The audience finers, as well it might, because Ben has just confided to his best friend that the one-night stand was with Lisa's mother. But Lisa herself never gets an answer, either then or at any other time in Ryan Craig's play.

That is a pity, because the revelation would presumably add frisson to Lisa and Ben's relationship and drama to the evening. It is odd, because it gives the impression that Craig has raised a significant subject, only to forget all about it. But I must confess that I also, maybe, inconsistently, found the omission something of a relief, as there was a distinct possibility that the author would not rise to the emotional occasion.

Happy Savages is one of those plays that leave critics simultaneously nodding, shaking and scratching their



heads. Craig is authentically talented. He can turn a sharp line, observe a character interestingly. But it is hard to take his people as seriously as they take themselves. They have the rhetoric of experience and pain — but do they genuinely have the scars?

One reason Ben's fling with Mum gets overlooked is that Lisa has her own surprise to dump on him. The two of them have been feeling unhappy of late. Lisa, a cool young woman of highish persuasion, has her reservations about Ben, with his earnest anguishings about our lack of human wholeness and his growing obsession with the Holocaust.

"When we're not together it's painful, but when we're together it's intolerable," she opines. And then comes her revelation. She has just got pregnant by A.N. Other: as it turns out, Ben's best friend Joe.

I cannot say I cared vastly about this, or about the tortid, florid reaction of Joe's hairdresser girlfriend, or about the quarrels, the splits and the death that ensue. Yet when you see Kris Marshall's wonderfully marshalled Joe blundering round the stage, or trying to roll up a sleeping bag while suffering from a hangover, you don't doubt Craig's creative skills. Likewise when Hermione Gulliford — who, astonishingly, took over the role of Lisa at virtually no notice at all — is blithely, serenely informing Joe that she's awfully sorry she hates him. He will give us more, and better, plays than

Happy Savages.

OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR BY JOAN LITTLEWOOD "WARM, ROWDY AND SARCASTIC... A WONDERFUL SHOW" Sunday Times

THE UNEXPECTED MAN LAST 3 WEEKS MICHAEL EILEEN THE GAMBON ATKINS

THEATRES APOLLO THEATRE... CHESSINGTON THEATRE... DOCKRUM DOLITTLE... THE UNEXPECTED MAN

THEATRES DUCKENOTE THEATRE... THE UNEXPECTED MAN... THE UNEXPECTED MAN

THEATRES LONDON PALACE THEATRE... SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER... THE UNEXPECTED MAN

THEATRES PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE... THE UNEXPECTED MAN... THE UNEXPECTED MAN

THEATRES VICTORIA PALACE THEATRE... THE UNEXPECTED MAN... THE UNEXPECTED MAN

Ball and Evans are nowhere near me the media in review Shock! Horror

'Ball and Evans are nowhere near me'

Chris Tarrant says his true rivals are Today and Terry Wogan. Interview by Moira Petty

Chris Tarrant — or Chris Wissey in the fond lexicon of radioland — has been threatening to "get a life" for years. A little perversely, then, as his 52nd birthday approaches, his schedule is, he groans, "crazy" — three TV series over three months and a half-hour extension of his breakfast show for Capital FM radio.

Tomorrow he is at the helm of a revamped version of *Man O Man* for ITV — or *New Man O Man*, as the trailers have been screaming all week. The show, in which men parade in front of a baying female audience before being thrown into a pool, must be the only product being marketed as a new, improved version with the promise that here will be less of it.

The show has been cut to 45 minutes and the hostesses, once kitted out like Las Vegas hookers, given a breezy new look. The first series attracted 5.6 million viewers but divided opinion. Some thought it tacky, others welcomed it as an ironic addition to ladette culture. Preview tapes reveal a slicker and more entertaining show with Tarrant's mix of charm and gentle sarcasm, a vital ingredient.

Tarrant has never been more popular. As he himself crows, with million viewers, *Tarrant on TV* "is often the most watched thing over the weekend". He is also the undisputed king of breakfast radio. During the first quarter of 1998, he attracted audiences of 2,435,000 with Chris Evans at Virgin FM pulling in 777,000 and Zoe Ball and Kevin Greening at Radio 1 trailing on 529,000.

Tarrant pursues the figures with glee: "I like this competitive thing. It keeps me sharp. There are 3 radio stations broadcasting in London where once there were only five." A fortnight before Evans brought forward the start time of his show from 7am to 6.30m this week, Tarrant countered by beginning his slot, now an unrivalled four hours, at 6am.

He tries to wave it away as "coincidence" but sees his job as hooking the listeners to Capital, and is advertisers, for the day. The earlier he can do that, the better for Capital, whose turnover on the radio operation last year was \$86 million with a profit of £31 million.

What irritates him are the headlines which imply that battle is joined between Tarrant and Evans, who are portrayed as a

pair of acquisitive *enfants terribles*, the latter as his junior *doppelgänger*. "We're not at all alike. He's got ginger hair and glasses," says Tarrant. "I hate all this 'today's the big day thing'. How many more big days can me and Terry Wogan have?"

"People think I'm holding Evans and Ball at bay but they're coming nowhere near me. Capital hasn't done a very good job of promoting us. They should hang our audience figures all over London."

Evans's Virgin is No 7 in London and frankly I'd find it depressing getting out of bed if my station was only No 7. Freud Communications has done a brilliant job in publicising Evans. Do I think he's good? I don't think anyone is as good as the hype."

Evans has made a big thing of the show's so-called "Zoo" format, in which a ringmaster works against a background of shouting and laughter. "It sounds as if people are trying too hard to laugh at something that's not funny. We introduced Zoo very successfully in 1986. There is a danger if the chemistry isn't right. I quietly went back to doing my own thing."

Tarrant keeps tabs on his rivals by occasionally listening to tapes of their shows, "although the last thing I want to do at the end of the day is listen to three hours of Evans."

When Zoe Ball and Kevin Greening took over the troubled breakfast slot at Radio 1, Tarrant claimed not to know who she was. Now he says "I think she's quite a talent but I think she's in the wrong place." He is critical of the new Radio 1, where there is no place for vintage pop music. "I think Radio 1 has seriously lost the plot. They are trying to be clever and arty. Because they're not interrupted by commercials, they could just do wall-to-wall hits in your ears like they used to."

"I choose the oldies that I play and that includes the Beatles and the Rolling Stones because they're part of the soundtrack of our lives. When I saw McCartney play live three years ago, the 18-year-olds in the audience knew the words of even the most obscure Beatles tracks."

"A lot of British bands, like Oasis, Pulp, Blur and the Lightning Seeds are so derivative that I find it easy to rubbish about them. The Eighties was a bit of a hard time with Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan. But I think the music is incidental. When I

hear a DJ say 'I'll let the music speak for itself, then I know that they're really in trouble.'"

Tarrant believes his true rivals to be Radio 4's *Today* programme and Radio 2's Terry Wogan, who come second and third in the London breakfast ratings. "Talk Radio and LBC haven't really taken off. *Today* is very good but you get the City types switching to me after half an hour for light relief."

Tarrant turned down an approach from Radio 1 in 1993, and from Virgin in 1996. Going national holds no lures. "In America, it's all big city radio," he says. "I did think about the Radio 1 breakfast show. I asked all my mates who'd worked there, Kenny Everett, David Jensen, Russ Freeman, and they said 'I'd get a free hand for about a fortnight. Then one of the suits would say that his wife had been driving through Hampshire and she didn't like what your man was saying.'"

Tarrant likes the immediacy of

radio. "I can have an idea in my car at five to six, and do it at five past, and if it doesn't work I can forget all about it by ten past. If you have an idea in television, you have to have four days of meetings and analysis first."

Tarrant effectively launched the market for Saturday morning kids' TV with *ATV's Tiswas* in the Seventies. "It wouldn't be accepted now. We were live and low budget and then they realised they had a cult on their hands. You were either a *Tiswas* family, mad and anarchic, or a neat, twee *Multicoloured Swap Shop* family, where the children went home clean and not crying."

The adult version, *OTT*, gave the nation the art of nude male balloon dancing but was taken off air early. "I've done loads of TV, but not very good TV," he admits. In the autumn he will launch the first game show to give away a million pounds. *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* is based on Tarrant's *Double or Quits* Capital radio show, with contestants risk-



Competitive edge: Chris Tarrant has a contract allegedly worth £1 million with Capital — and keeps the station at the top of breakfast radio

ing what they have won if they wish to try for more. It will go out for ten consecutive nights on the ITV network. "Can you imagine the reaction of the controllers, of the ITV companies?" says Tarrant joyously.

Twice-married Tarrant has six children (two from each marriage plus two stepchildren) and says: "I am aware that the younger ones are growing up. I turned down a lot of money by not working weekends or nights." After his divorce he took out "an enormous overdraft" to keep a house near his first family in Warwickshire. "It's got beams, badgers you can hand-feed and a stream all the children have fallen in. I relax by going fishing."

After his first wife, Sheila, sold a story to a paper he was "saddened but we made up for the sake of the kids. It was a non-story. Chris Tarrant drank a lot when he was making *Tiswas*. Of course I did." In his marriage to his second wife, Ingrid — "the only person who talks more than

me, but kind and supportive" — fidelity is important.

His contract with Capital "until the millennium" is rumoured to be worth £1 million a year. He is a partner in Made in Italy, a chain of three men's clothing shops. Tarrant's main home is an eight-bedroom house in Surrey, which he leaves at 5am. "I go round kissing little heads on pillows. The incentive to get out of bed is my growing audience. But I intend to stop ahead of the game."

He has talked of buying a radio station but balks at the thought of Evans's schedule, now he has bought Virgin radio. "He's off air and into meetings. The good thing for me is that I never see my boss." He laughs at the idea that he might buy the hugely successful Capital. "It's like saying would you like to sleep with Claudia Schiffer? I might buy one of the little toy stations. Like Virgin."

● Man O Man specials: Saturdays August 8 and 15. ITV 6.55pm.

Hollywood comes to the Clyde

Glasgow is bidding to become a capital of film, says Chris Ayres

Edinburgh drug-dens, the Kremlin in Moscow and the smoky backstreets of New York have all been recreated by film-makers in the city of Glasgow. After this week, both directors and producers who decide to carry on the city's tradition of being one of Britain's busiest film locations will find their lives made much easier.

The Glasgow Film Office, launched at the Cannes Festival last year, has drawn up a film charter for the city — the first of its kind in Britain — after seeing how well a similar idea worked in New York. The aim is that one day the streets of Glasgow will become as familiar to cinematographers as those of Los Angeles and the Big Apple.

The creation of the Glasgow Film Office has already encouraged an enormous rise in spending by film companies in the city, rising from an estimated £2.6 million in 1996 to £7 million last year. It is hoped that film production will contribute £10 million to the local economy by the year 2000. The only irony is that the city rarely plays itself.

On Tuesday, Channel 4 and BBC Scotland became the first big programme-makers to sign the charter, which commits the city's public services, including Strathclyde Police, to co-operate closely with film and programme-makers working in Glasgow's streets and buildings. Film directors who want to blow up Glasgow's city centre, or stage a car chase through the Clyde Tunnel, will now find themselves supported by the public organisations which will suffer the biggest headaches.

One of the charter's clauses goes as far as to say that no council official can refuse to allow production companies the use of public facilities, other than in "exceptional circumstances and unless a law is being violated".

But according to the Glasgow Film Office, the local police actually quite enjoy watching explosive action sequences being shot in the city. In a region often portrayed in England as being bleak and ridden with crime, the injection of Hollywood glamour is welcome. It also gives it one notch up against its deadly rival — the city of Edinburgh. The film office also claims to help production companies to save money by advising them on which buildings and streets can be used most easily, and by giving them access to previous case studies.

Frank McAveety, the leader of Glasgow City Council, said this week: "We want Glasgow to be at the forefront of film-making in the UK. One way of doing this is by ensuring that we make it as easy as possible for film-makers to work here."

Stuart Cosgrove, the head of programming, regions and nations at Channel 4, welcomed the charter and called on other British cities to introduce similar initiatives. "Although *Training Spotting* was based in Edinburgh, the internal drug-den scenes were shot at a cigarette factory in the East End of the city," he said.

Glasgow City Chambers were also used to represent the inside of the Russian Kremlin, because of their gold-leafed mahogany rooms. If you go to the eight-storey tenebrous buildings behind Queen's Street, Glasgow's main thoroughfare, the fire escapes look very much like those on the backstreets of New York, especially if you put in enough smoke. There's not doubt that this charter brings into one document all the things we need, from the fire service and the full co-operation of the police, to liaising with the residents of a street."

After successes such as *Shallow Grave* and, more recently, *My Name is Joe* — starring Peter Mullan, who won the Best Actor award this year at Cannes for his performance — many new projects are now being shot in the city. These include *Gregory's Two Girls*, the follow-up to *Gregory's Girl*, and *The Debt Collector*, starring Billy Connolly. A new BBC drama series, *Brave New World*, has also been shot in Glasgow. Perhaps the only disturbing element of the charter for Glaswegians is what the city's streets and buildings can be used to represent. As Mr Cosgrove said: "The city's suburbs can even be made to look like the South of England." Probably best to keep that bit quiet.

Shock! Horror! How do you spot a tabloid prizewinner?



Lord Cudlipp: he vilified "bonking bimbo" journalism

■ JOURNALISTS love giving each other prizes; but most awards go to cerebral scribes on upmarket broadsheets, not to the crowd-pleasers who toil for the tabloids. That is why the *British Journalism Review* is seeking to launch an award specifically for short, fat papers with screaming headlines.

It will be in memory of Lord Cudlipp, father of modern tabloid journalism. Geoffrey Goodman, the *Review's* editor, will soon be touting for sponsors of the award among publishers of national newspapers.

But how do you define a good tabloid story? Cudlipp in his later years famously denounced the "bonking bimbo" school of journalism, which would disqualify kiss-and-tell revelations about celebs.

And how about *The Mirror's* drugs entrapment of Jack Straw's son?

It set the news agenda for days but the sly investigatory method stuck in many gullets. I predict shock, horror and sensational rows as the judges



Michael Leighton's MEDIA DIARY

grapple with these ethical posers.

■ ADAM LEYLAND, editor of the journalists' weekly, *Press Gazette*, is quitting after four and a half months to take up an offer he could not refuse. He is off to New York to launch an American version of *PR Week* for Haymarket. Michael Heseltine's publishing company, Surprising, in the country that invented public relations, there is no weekly title serving the craft.

Leyland, 34, was appointed to the *Gazette* after it was bought from Enmap by Quantum, which upset staff by moving its office from Central London to Croydon. Some staffers also disagreed with changes that Leyland was making. He

says his aim was to make the *Gazette* "as bold, brash and brilliant as *Campaign*", the journal of the advertising industry, coincidentally published by his new employers. He is sad to be leaving before the job is done but points out: "I was offered the chance to move from East Croydon to Manhattan. Wouldn't you?"

■ GUS MACDONALD'S new role as Scottish Industry Minister could affect the row over regulation of TV in Scotland after devolution.

Under current plans the Scottish ITV companies will continue to be regulated by the Whitehall-appointed Independent Television Commission.

Many Scots would like

their own regulator, Gordon Young, publisher of the Scottish media journal, *The Drum*, put the case powerfully in an editorial two weeks ago. If the Government agreed to this change, television regulation would be assigned to the Minister for Business and Industry in the new Scottish administration.

And who better qualified than the former boss of Scottish TV?

■ WHITHER Jocelyn Targett, the former high-flyer who lost his job as deputy editor in the latest turn of *The Observer's* merry-go-round? Rumours are that he may find a berth at *The Sunday Times* or *The Express on Sunday*.

It would be a surprise if he were offered his old post back at *The Mail on Sunday*, where he used to edit *Night & Day*. The Mail top brass were less than delighted with Targett's tribune in *The Observer's* former Editor-in-Chief, Sir David English, who died in June. To some, it appeared that Targett was main-

ly concerned to pay tribute to himself, pointing out how perceptive Sir David had been in recognising his Targett's remarkable talent.

■ *THE Independent* runs a weekly feature called "Fitch" where experts in public relations advise institutions on how to improve their image.

Last week the spotlight fell on the House of Lords. The PR expert interviewed was Evie Soames, of Charles Barker BSMG, who said peers should play up issues on which they are "more repre-

sentative of public opinion than the Government".

An example she gave was predatory pricing of newspapers — code for a campaign by rival broadsheets to force *The Times* to increase its cover price by 50 per cent to match theirs.

Soames is indignant that the Government rejected the Lords' move to interfere with the free market. Hardly surprising, for she is a paid lobbyist for Independent Newspapers on that very issue. Not much independence there, then.

■ THE delay to the launch of the new *Sporting Life*, the all-sports daily originally slated for October, will not surprise cynics who doubt the project's feasibility. Some harboured unworthy and no doubt groundless suspicions that the whole idea was a pretext by the Mirror Group to justify closing down the old paper after they acquired the rival *Racing Post*. The company now says the new *Life* will appear "possibly next spring".

John Mulholland, the Editor, who resigned as media editor of *The Guardian* to mastermind the launch, must feel queasy. Had he stayed at Farringdon Road he would certainly have figured in the round of promotions following the departure of Roger Alton to edit *The Observer*. Mulholland is on holiday this week — something he may have to get used to. (See Page 40).

● Maggie Brown is on holiday.

سكذامن لامل

media times



Disposable asset? Frank Field has no doubts who was behind the campaign to oust him as Minister for Welfare Reform — and called spin-doctors a cancer at the heart of Labour

Who spun Frank Field?

Chris Buckland goes on the trail of Labour's assassins

In politics, as in real life, there is nothing quite so brutal as a civil war. Usually, they are deeply personal, as well as being nasty, brutish — and long.

The final disembowelling of Frank Field, the sacked Minister for Welfare Reform, expanded the traditional belief that in the House of Commons your opponents sit facing you on the Opposition benches while your enemies sit behind you. Field's foes had also perched alongside him on the Treasury bench: his former government colleagues.

As the fog of battle cleared, some in Tony Blair's Government were beginning to realise the damage done by the sharp-tongued insults and the clouds of acrimony.

One Downing Street spin-doctor lamented: "This was not what we wanted. We have become victims of the myth of the brilliance of our co-ordination."

In other words, there was no conspiracy organised by No 10 against the man who still claims to be a great admirer of the Prime Minister.

If so it must have been a case of spontaneous combustion against the man who was asked to "think the unthinkable" and ended up as a victim

of a vicious campaign to sink the once-unsinkable. Field had no doubts as he pointed an accusing finger at the spin-doctors, using the opportunity provided by Jimmy Young's Radio 2 show to upbraid them as "a cancer that will eat away at the heart of our very existence". But were they really behind the torrent of abuse heaped on Field after his fateful meeting with the Prime Minister on Monday of last week?

It is usually easy to spot the work of Alastair Campbell, Blair's chief press secretary: quotations attributed to "a Downing Street spokesman" or "spokesman for Mr Blair" are invariably Campbell's. So he was clearly responsible for the views that Field's talents were "not best suited to running a government department" and that his proposals "never took the form of policy capable of being implemented by a Government". Campbell also phoned several newspapers to try to persuade them that the great welfare reform campaign, on which Blair privately says his Government's success or failure depends, is still on track. He was reacting

to *The Sun* and *The Mirror*, both of which awarded the Government's welfare performance nought out of ten in their end-of-term reports.

Campbell would begin his conversation with the words "I don't want to get into personalities", before putting his stamp on the situation before and after Field. Tame stuff, really. But then Mr Campbell is an old friend and said Field was one of the few politicians he would invite into his home.

Some Cabinet ministers went on record: Alastair Darling, who replaced Field's boss, Harriet Harman, as Social Security Secretary; Gordon Brown, the Chancellor; and even Jack Cunningham, Blair's new "enforcer".

Their comments were bruising, reflecting an irritation with the way Field had rejected Harman's tactics of going quietly, and a widely held view that the puritan reformer was a borderline case between an enthusiast and a fanatic.

Darling acutely commented that the Government would be judged "by results, not rhetoric". Brown claimed that

Field's plans would cost £30 billion, which threw doubt on the claims that he had not come up with any plans in the first place. Dr Cunningham merely poured acid on Field's attempt to wangle a Cabinet job out of Blair.

But who plunged in the dagger to its hilt? Which "senior ex-ministerial colleague" described Field as a "disgrace" who had been found to be "hollow"? Who put it around that Blair would not "go out on a limb" to save Field if there were moves to deselect him in his Birkenhead constituency.

The suspicion might have fallen on Peter Mandelson. But he had better things to do as he settled into his first Cabinet seat as Trade and Industry Secretary. The accusing finger then moves to the few remaining allies of Field's demolished boss, Harriet Harman, who until recently included Brown. Field's resignation speech to a crowded Commons, from which Blair had scuttled moments earlier, had singled out the Chancellor.

Now Gordon Brown does not take criticism lightly. Some say he does not take it at all. And he has the advantage

of the services of Charlie Whelan, the whirling dervish of all spin-doctors. Whelan is famous for holding forth to grateful Sunday journalists in Whitehall's Red Lion pub and for his loyalty to his employer. The verdict on Whelan must be a Scottish "not proven".

But whether it be spin-doctors or ministers, those who

turned this crisis into a disaster are slowly becoming aware that something is wrong when a Government with a majority of almost 180 appears terrified of a junior minister with a low public profile.

And they can be certain that Field will redouble his efforts to needle his tormentors and expose any holes in the stalled welfare reforms, helped along by his new image as St Frank the Martyr.

A small warning, Paul

Under its Editor Paul Dacre, the *Daily Mail*, owned by Lord Rothermere, has prospered since he succeeded the late Sir David English. Year-on-year, sales are up by 150,000 a day. Only last month, moreover, Rothermere appointed Dacre his editorial czar on Earth as Editor-in-Chief of the *Daily Mail*, *Mail on Sunday* and *Evening Standard*.

That crucial appointment makes all the more surprising the critical comments about Dacre's *Daily Mail* made by Rothermere in an amazingly candid interview with Graham Turner in *The Daily Telegraph* this week. Rothermere, pictured, was frank about the contract between owner and editor: "Paul is independent to the degree of his success... entirely free to do anything except please readers." The *Daily Mail* had gone too far downmarket, he added.

"There is too much tabloid-y reporting. That kind of thing leads in due course to slovenliness and sensationalism... something reporters use to cover up the fact that they've done no work. I want it to stop. What I say to Paul is: 'The market is moving towards us. If we go down to meet it, we'll endanger our market position.' It's fine to be catching up *The Mirror*, but not at that price. At the moment Paul is playing a dangerous game of footsie. He has to be very careful."

Rothermere also revealed that he disdained Dacre's missionary defence of family values. "Family values — what does that phrase mean?" he asked. "It doesn't mean anything. The whole thing about today... is that morality is purely a matter of opinion." Even ut-



tered privately, such comments would be unsettling for an editor. Uttered publicly they must have been especially unsettling — as well as demeaning — for Dacre, who still gets the papers even though he is in Greece on a five-week holiday. "He'll be incandescent," said one senior *Mail* man.

One question raised by the interview was why Rothermere chose to give it to Dacre's deadliest rival, especially after the vicious spat last year when Charles Moore, Editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, accused Rothermere and English of "contemptible" behaviour over paparazzi pictures of Diana, Princess of Wales. Dacre responded in *The Guardi-*

an by reporting that after the dreaded paparazzi, the Princess and her friends had most disliked Moore and his newspaper.

The main question, however, was whether Rothermere was serious or simply indulging his streak of mischief and tweaking Dacre's tail. That was certainly the interpretation of Sally Taylor, official historian of the *Daily Mail*. It was a direct warning from Rothermere the businessman that the *Daily Mail* should stay on its own turf — the middle market — and not descend to *The Mirror*. "A lot of people think he's a simple man," she said. "He's not; he's a complicated man. If he is very pleased with somebody, as he is with Paul, he will sometimes deliver an admonishment to them as a warning to others."

Rothermere loved stirring up mischief, added Stewart Stevenson, former Editor of the *Mail on Sunday*, who was himself once the subject of the same treatment. Yet he was the finest of proprietors. There was an implicit contract with his editors: they could follow their own instincts so long as they were successful. Some proprietors interfered even with successful editors. "I never got that. None of us shivered in our boots."

The best verdict is that what Rothermere's mischievous comments really demonstrated was an enduring truth, especially in a business with so strong a sense of family tradition. For the owner there can be no over-mighty subjects. It's the boss's train set. Editors who ignore that eternal truth do so at their peril. Just a small warning, Paul.

I found Army transsexual on the Net

After working for two years as a staff reporter for *The Voice*, I have always looked enviously over my shoulder at freelancers. They seem to make huge amounts of money, live life to their own drumbeat and answer to nobody.

This week I sold the story of a transsexual sergeant-major to *The Express*. But far from being a trip down easy street, it was the culmination of six weeks of sweat, stress and worry.

We met on the Internet. I would love to say that I signed up to America On Line's Internet service to find stories, but all I wanted was to download computer games.

After I said I was "available for house calls", a note arrived saying: "Hi, I see you're a journalist. I might have a story for you."

My mystery messenger, calling himself Joanne, told me that he was a transsexual serving in the British Army and was being chucked out after nearly 18 years because they found out that he planned to have a sex change.

He had chosen me from hundreds of journalists on the Net because he liked the film *Highlander* and thought someone called McLeod must be trustworthy. He wanted to sell his story, and to see if he could trust me.

I had never sold a story in my life and didn't know where to start. But I did a postgraduate journalism course at City University, and so have many close friends now scattered over the news desks of national papers.

"Jo" wanted a sympathetic hearing more than hard cash, and I decided that *The Express* was my best option. Kirsty Walker, the paper's drugs correspondent, was a good friend from City and I knew she would treat the story well.

I ran Jo's tale by her — being careful to hide as many details as possible. She said it might be worth a couple of thousand pounds.

Both Jo and I were nervous. MAURICE MCLEOD

Ministers call Frank Field 'a failed joke'

Ministers dismiss Field as 'hollow'

Field hits at 'cancer of spin doctors'

Halt 'cancer' of the Labour spin doctors, demands Field

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

WIN A CLASSIC FERRARI 328 GTB

ENTER FOR THE HUNGARIAN GRAND PRIX TODAY

M. Greenhalgh of Downham Market, Norfolk, still leads the race for the chance to win a classic Ferrari 328 GTB, or a trip to either the 1999 Australian or Monaco Grand Prix, with 9,412 points. His team, Odds Against, scored 617 points, in Germany. T. Lloyd, from London, wins a trip to the 1999 British GP for scoring 743 points in the race. HOW TO ENTER Pick six drivers and six constructors, three from each of the four groups below. To qualify for the Hungarian Grand Prix UK readers should call 0891 40 50 01 (Tel +44 990 100 311) before Thursday August 13 using a Touch-tone telephone and tap in

their 12 selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. Checkline Check your score after the German race by calling 0891 884 648 (+44 990 100 348 ex UK) using your PIN. Feedback Service Call our faxback service on 0991 111 444 (UK only. Calls cost 11/min). Transfers Change up to four selections before the Hungarian race by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon on Thursday August 13. An updated leaderboard will be published next Friday.

RESULTS OF THE GERMAN GRAND PRIX

DRIVERS: Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole M. Hakkinen 30 points; 2nd D. Coulthard 25; 3rd J. Villeneuve 24; 4th R. Schumacher 23; 5th D. Hill 22; 6th E. Irvine 21; 7th A. Wurz 20; 8th G. Fisichella 19; 9th M. Schumacher 18; 10th H-H. Frentzen 17; 11th J. Alesi 16; 12th J. Herbert 15; 13th R. Barrichello 14; 14th J. Trulli 13; 15th T. Takagi 12; 16th O. Panis 11; 17th M. Salo 10; 18th P. Diniz 9; 19th J. Verstappen 8; 20th S. Nakano 7. Finishing points (scored for the top 20 classified positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st M. Hakkinen 80 points; 2nd D. Coulthard 50; 3rd J. Villeneuve 40; 4th D. Hill 30; 5th M. Schumacher 28; 6th R. Schumacher 28; 7th G. Fisichella 27; 8th E. Irvine 26; 9th H-H. Frentzen 25; 10th J. Alesi 24; 11th A. Wurz 23; 12th J. Trulli 22; 13th T. Takagi 21; 14th M. Salo 20; 15th O. Panis 19; 16th E. Tuero 18 (Only 18 were classified). Lap points (one point for each lap completed): M. Hakkinen 45 points; D. Coulthard 45; J. Villeneuve 45; 40 Hill 45; M. Schumacher 45; R. Schumacher 45; G. Fisichella 45; E. Irvine 45; H-H. Frentzen 45; J. Alesi 45; A. Wurz 45; J. Trulli 44; T. Takagi 44; M. Salo 44; O. Panis 44; E. Tuero 43; J. Herbert 37; S. Nakano 36; R. Barrichello 27; J. Verstappen 24; P. Diniz 2. Impressive start from starting grid to finishing position (5 points for each improved place): E. Tuero 15 points; M. Schumacher 12; M. Salo 8; J. Trulli 6; T. Takagi 6; D. Hill 3; G. Fisichella 3; O. Panis 3; H-H. Frentzen 3; J. Alesi 3. Fastest lap time of grand prix: D. Coulthard 10 points. Penalty points (incidental resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted); none. Did not finish the race (10 points deducted); J. Herbert -10 points; S. Nakano -10; R. Barrichello -10; J. Verstappen -10; P. Diniz -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted); none. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted); none.

CONSTRUCTORS: Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): McLaren 30 points; Williams 24; Jordan 23; Ferrari 22; Benetton 20; Sauber 17; Prost 16; Tyrrell 14; Arrows 13; Minardi 11. Penalty points (incidental resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted); none. Elimination of a car during the race (10 points deducted); Stewart -20 points; Sauber -10; Arrows -10; Minardi -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted); none. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted); none.

BONUS POINTS apply to six grands prix during the 1998 Formula One championship. The fourth is the Hungarian GP. Correctly predicting winning driver: 100 points; second place: 200 points; third place: 300 points

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

The first column of figures after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the German GP. The second column shows the total points in the competition so far

DRIVERS			
GROUP A		GROUP B	
01 D Hill	100 846	12 A Wurz	88 1194
02 M Schumacher	104 1440	13 R Schumacher	96 777
03 D Coulthard	130 1284	14 J Trulli	85 698
04 G Fisichella	94 1036	15 J Herbert	42 867
05 J Villeneuve	109 1282	16 M Salo	83 590
06 O Panis	77 758	17 P Diniz	1 481
07 H-H Frentzen	90 889	18 J Verstappen	22 852
08 E Irvine	82 1336	19 T Takagi	83 869
09 M Hakkinen	135 1448	20 R Rosset	0 505
10 J Alesi	88 960	21 S Nakano	33 882
11 R Barrichello	31 664	22 E Tuero	76 539

* Jos Verstappen replaces Jan Magnussen in the Stewart-Ford team from the French Grand Prix. Rule 2 applies.

CONSTRUCTORS			
GROUP C		GROUP D	
23 Williams	24 170	29 Sauber	7 58
24 Ferrari	22 261	30 Arrows	3 -84
25 Benetton	20 182	31 Stewart	-20 -45
26 McLaren	30 234	32 Tyrrell	14 -4
27 Jordan	23 80	33 Minardi	1 0
28 Prost	15 -44		

FANTASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0891 40 50 01
+44 990 100 311 outside the UK

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls).

CHANGING TIMES

media times

The end of Sporting Life?

Tom Clarke chronicles the fiasco of the Sporting Life's aborted relaunch



Going, going... the last issue of the old Sporting Life goes on sale at York racecourse

On Tuesday morning, Mirror Group issued an announcement to the trade magazine Press Gazette confirming October 19 as the launch date for its new, all-sports Sporting Life and naming nearly 70 journalists who had been recruited to the staff.

even though it had been a serious profit-maker and the clear market-leader as recently as two years ago. Then (I have since come to believe) it was put into systematic rundown to prepare for Montgomery's deal with Sheikh Mohammed of Dubai to acquire the Racing Post, close the Life and monopolise the small but lucrative racing and betting market.

mondson (racing correspondent of The Independent, who was going to be number one on features), Jim Mumrow (football editor of The Sunday Times), Andrew Sini (a reporter and columnist on old Life who was going to be an investigative reporter), and Stephen Moss (The Guardian's literary editor, who was going to be cricket correspondent, and many rising talents from regional newspapers. I am told that all but three offers had been accepted. Many of the regional journalists had already not only quit their jobs, but sold their houses in preparation for moving to London.

Starting salaries were high enough (an average of £30,000 plus) and the contracts good enough (including six months' notice) to attract good journalists. Mirror Group has now either to find work for them or face a payout of more than £15 million to add to the estimated £6 million bill for the 110 people discarded from the old Life and Post when the two staffs were merged in May.

unworkable for two reasons. First, with the mainstream national papers covering sport more widely and more deeply than ever before, there was not the public demand. Secondly, advertisers, other than sports equipment manufacturers and bookmakers, had never shown much of an appetite for buying space in the sports pages. I was told that all-sports papers were successful in France, Italy and Spain. But sports coverage in the mainstream papers in those countries is minimal by comparison with Britain. The whole venture reeked to me of unreality.

Farewell fickle finger

CAMELOT wrong-footed the entire ad industry this week by not awarding its £20 million advertising account to M & C Saatchi. Nobody was more surprised than the victor, WCRS. True, the agency felt it had made an outstanding pitch; it's also true that all the feedback from the review process put it out in front, but with M & C Saatchi's ability to make and use friends in high places, it could never be written off — especially as key M & C executives were involved in the successful Camelot launch account at Saatchi & Saatchi in 1994.

not have expected to have something like ten different campaigns rejected ahead of the autumn launch. It appears that a couple of weeks ago ONdigital asked AMV to work alongside another agency — a situation it found unacceptable. So, to universal surprise, AMV resigned the account and BMP DDB, the agency that came second in the original pitch, was given an early Christmas present. With ONdigital pledging to spend £40 million advertising its launch, the budget is almost as mind-boggling as the problem the agency has to crack.



Stefano Hatfield

The most bewildering new campaign of the week has to be Levi's. Come, to use Levi's own unfortunate description, is the "award-winning campaign" that gained much consumer affection and which changed the face of jeans advertising.

TO ADVERTISE CALL 0171 481 4481

MEDIA & MARKETING

FAX: 0171 782 7826

Morgan & Banks advertisement featuring 'Aerial Access Equipment' and 'Excellent Salary Package'.

Macmillan Davies Hodes advertisement for a 'Sales & Marketing Manager'.

LIN PAC advertisement for a 'Marketing Manager' in Cheshire.

CJA Recruitment Consultants Group advertisement for an 'Operations Director' in Broadcasting.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, partially obscured and containing text like 'Pain prov...', 'no barrier', and 'Edward'.

ATHLETICS

Pain proves no barrier to Edwards

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

JONATHAN EDWARDS will continue to compete in the Golden League...

Edwards, undefeated in 12 triple jump competitions this season...

However, Edwards, the world record-holder, said that his victory had been "a minor miracle"...

Yesterday Jonathan Marks, his manager, reported that Edwards was feeling "a little bit down in the mouth"...

There is a \$1 million jackpot to be shared among the athletes who win at all six meetings...



Tim Henman reached the third round of the du Maurier Open by beating Guillermo Canas, of Argentina, 3-6, 7-6, 6-2

RUGBY UNION: EUROPEAN LEADERS SEEK END TO CONSTANT FEUDING

Hosie makes plea to warring factions

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

THE board of European Rugby Cup Limited (ERC) meets in Dublin today in the wake of an impassioned plea from Alan Hosie...

by next week, will have established a date for the key personnel within the six nations to meet.

"My personal view is that it's too late and too impractical for the clubs to get back nor is that their wish," Smith said.

Smith's cause is not helped, however, by the failure to replace the club representative on the ERC board.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE PUBLISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SUBSECTION 10(7) OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT 1984

Licence to run telecommunications systems under section 7 of the Telecommunications Act 1984 granted to EGN BV, Internet Network Services Limited...

LEGAL NOTICES

ALLEN EDWARDS, ALLAN CONNOR, JOHN EDWARDS, JOHN EDWARDS, JOHN EDWARDS...

THE SECRETARY OF STATE has granted the Licences because he considers that they will help to satisfy demands in the United Kingdom for the provision of services...

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Broncos hope to rub salt in wound

By Christopher Irvine

LONDON Broncos have already enjoyed one victory over Wigan Warriors this season...

Had John Monie, the Wigan coach, got his way, Edwards would be on his side...

In one change from the London side that beat Warrington Wolves last Sunday...

Widnes Vikings yesterday appointed Colin Whiffeld, the academy coach, for the remainder of the season...

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SPORT IN BRIEF

TVM pull out after drugs row

■ CYCLING: The Dutch TVM team, implicated in a drugs scandal during the Tour de France...

■ ROWING: Mark Banks, the Great Britain team manager, was highly satisfied as three crews qualified for the A finals...

■ SQUASH: England's leading three under-19 players have reached the quarter-finals of the Merrill Lynch world junior men's championship...

■ GOLF: Ignacio Garrido, of Spain, recorded a round of 67, five under par, to share the first-round lead in the German Open...

■ BOWLS: Katherine Hawes, the champion, made an early exit from the women's national two-wood singles championship at Royal Leamington Spa...

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

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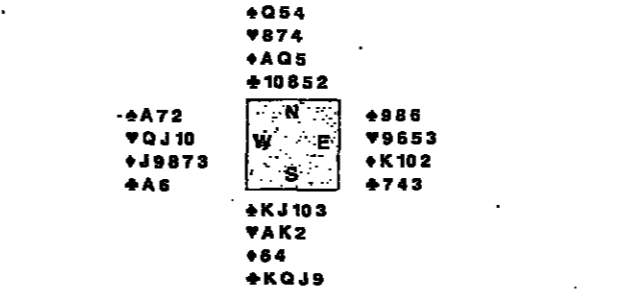
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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE advertisement by Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent.

Begin Bridge with The Times Lesson 17 - MiniBridge 12. Last week I, discussed the defence to the following hand, which South chose to play in No-Trumps.

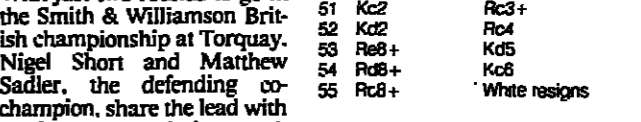


On the queen of hearts lead, declarer made nine tricks, his goal with 25 points. Did you find a more punishing opening lead?

When you lead the seven, partner can work out that you must have three of the seven cards that are higher than the seven. That leaves four cards higher than the seven in the other three hands.

KEENE on CHESS advertisement by Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent.

Dynamic duo. With just two rounds to go in the Smith & Williamson British championship at Torquay...



White: Jon Speelman. Black: Nigel Short. British championship Torquay, 1998.

Mind Sports Olympiad. The second Mind Sports Olympiad, which features chess, bridge, IQ and hosts the finals of The Times Crossword Championship...

Times book. The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times...

WORD-WATCHING

YGGDRASIL a. A mythical tree b. An Indian tea c. A Scandinavian lake NIM a. A game b. Cheeky c. A character in a Brechtian play

WINNING MOVE

Black to play. This position is from Leko - Svidler, Dortmund, 1998. Peter Svidler, the young Russian, recently finished equal first in the world-class event at Dortmund. Here is the critical position from his decisive last round game. How did he continue? Solution on page 46

GOLF: GOOD STRIKERS MAKE SOLID HEADWAY AGAINST ADVERSE GLENEAGLES WEATHER

Alfredsson buffeted but unbowed

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THE wind roared around the Perthshire glens, as unwelcome a visitor to Gleneagles as some of the suitors trying to woo the famous hotel to sell out. The wind had all the warmth of a Glasgow kiss, which, coincidentally, is the direction from which it was blowing. Though it was not cold, it swirled irritatingly from time to time, was often accompanied by squalls of rain and made life very tricky for competitors in the first round of the McDonald's WPGA Championship of Europe.

between them, and Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, who had 17 pars and one birdie, were so good. De Lorenzi has played very little this year after undergoing an operation last winter but there was no evidence of rust in her game. Pernilla Sterner's 71 was a much more adventurous round. It contained four bogeys in her first ten holes and birdies at every other hole from the 12th.

Such a wind favours the good strikers because they are able to flight the ball better through and on the wind. So it is no surprise that Laura Davies, who is showing a welcome return to form after winning a tournament in Sweden two weeks ago, and Helen Alfredsson, the defending champion, had rounds of 72, level par.

A wind also favours those who are used to playing in it, as Matthew when she was growing up at North Berwick, and as De Lorenzi, who now plays and practises at a new course just next to El Prat on the edge of Barcelona. Though it is difficult to judge downwind strokes in a strong wind, it is more difficult still to put. Perhaps this is why Alfredsson three-putted on five greens, though on the 5th she sank a putt estimated to be 28 yards — "the longest putt I have ever seen holed," Davies said.

Results 45

rest of his life. "If heaven is as good as this, I sure hope they have some tee times left," Trevino said.

The Perthshire hills were far from heavenly yesterday, although some holes did not pose any problems to competitors, mainly those such as the downwind 11th and 14th, a short par four, and the long 18th. This last tumbles down from a raised tee in a series of waves and well-struck drives were blown on and on until the green, 460 yards from the tee, was comfortably within reach for the big hitters with a pitching club, at most.

Other holes, however, were so difficult as to bring many competitors to their knees. The 350-yard 3rd, the Silver Tassie, did not yield a birdie all day and its average score was probably well over five. There were many sevens and two eights on it.

This is why the rounds of 71, one under par, by Catriona Matthew and Trish Johnson, who had only four bogeys

between them, and Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, who had 17 pars and one birdie, were so good. De Lorenzi has played very little this year after undergoing an operation last winter but there was no evidence of rust in her game. Pernilla Sterner's 71 was a much more adventurous round. It contained four bogeys in her first ten holes and birdies at every other hole from the 12th.

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Alfredsson, whose 72 left her one stroke behind the leaders, tees off at the 1st yesterday

Jacklin abashed at error

TONY JACKLIN played a round in the Senior British Open Championship for the second time in his life yesterday — and for the second time got himself in a terrible muddle.

The first occasion he appeared, in his first year as a senior golfer in 1994, he inadvertently signed for a wrong score and was disqualified, while yesterday he played the wrong ball at Royal Portrush and was handed a two-stroke penalty.

Jacklin's gaffe occurred on the 2nd hole, where he drove into the rough and then played a ball that had been pointed out to him by a nearby marshal. It was not until he got to the ball having played two shots that he realised the projectile was not his.

Abashed at having made such an elementary mistake, the former Open champion retraced his footsteps and found his ball not three feet from where the rogue ball had been played. The ball he played was, it is true, buried in the cabbage, but 40-odd years of golf have obviously not taught him not to take anybody's word for anything.

"It was not the nicest thing to happen for my first competitive round at Portrush," he said with masterly understatement. Jacklin finished the day with a score of 76, and the two shots he left behind in the rough might come back to haunt him when the cut is made tonight.

Meanwhile, the lead was being taken by Jim Rhodes, 52, who is having something of a vintage season. He is seventh in the senior order of merit, and his 68, four under par, was the first step towards improving even that exalted position.

Brian Barnes, going for his third win in four years in this championship, paid the price for casting his ball out of bounds at the 16th. A double-bogey six was his punishment, although he recovered gallantly with birdies at the 17th and 18th to complete a round of 70.

Barnes has been taking warfarin to thin his blood since suffering from a thrombosis in his leg three years ago and feels the cold more than most. A chilly afternoon caused his wayward teeshoot; the rest of the field if he gets warmed up today.

THUNDERER
6.00 Eberby Park, 6.30 Honey Bee, 7.00 Ocker, 7.30 Adnaar, 8.00 Herb Of Grace, 8.30 Musaisal.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

6.00 K & N WAITE CONSTRUCTION HANDICAP (25,736; 2m 24yo) (8 runners)
1-360 MITHAM 27 (2) M J Parnham 4-10-0 J Patton 2
2-842 STEVIE PAKE 9 (1) J S 4-4-4 J Carter 7
3-8-11 TULLANK 13 (1) J Heston 5-3-2 M McCabe 5
4-1255 PADMAGE MARY 20 (1) J G 9-9-0 D O'Donnell 2
5-818 BRISBANK 48 (2) H G 3-3-1 G Carter 9
6-1222 WOODY'S BOY 17 (1) M Hester 4-4-4 A Daly (2) 3
7-0041 DUNESOLD 14 (1) J S 4-4-4 M Hester 4-7-10 J S
8-620 NORTH COUNTRY 105/1 M Heston 4-7-10 M Heston (2) 1
9-1 Heston, 7-2 Eberby Park, 11-2 Mitham, 6-1 Giffnock, 7-1 other.

6.30 MINERAL STAR SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O; £3,720; 7) (7)
1-0262 ACE OF TRUMPETS 11 W Haggan 9-11 M Hill 6
2-0111 LILLIAN'S 13 P Heston 9-11 J Carter 4
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7.00 BERNARD LLOYD AND PAUL STANBROOK HANDICAP (25,871; 6) (10)
1-330 MR BERNARD 14 (2) F S 7-10-4 B Winton (2) 7
2-1000 DAIRE 14 (1) F S 7-10-4 B Winton (2) 7
3-4011 DEEP SPACE 15 (2) J 8-8-8 P McCabe 5
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7.30 CITY TRUCK GROUP MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £5,048; 7) (12)
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8.00 DR MARTENS NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O; £4,893; 7) (9)
1-5451 LAMBE 18 (2) M Heston 9-7 J Carter 7
2-0258 MARY'S MIST 10 B Heston 9-7 J Carter 7
3-411 HERB OF GRACE (2) M J Carter 9-5 J Carter 7
4-441 CAPRICORN 14 M J Carter 9-5 J Carter 7
5-130 FROE 11 B Heston 9-4 M Heston 9
6-0420 TO THE LAST MAN 20 M Heston 9-7 M Heston 9
7-2205 SUFFRAGE 10 J Carter 9-7 M Heston 9
8-2105 CYRO 16 M J Carter 9-5 J Carter 7
9-2280 SWEET COMPLAINE 30 P Shalpin 7-12 M Heston 9
10-0000 MARY'S MIST 10 B Heston 9-7 J Carter 7
11-0000 MARY'S MIST 10 B Heston 9-7 J Carter 7
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CRICKET

Somerset crushed despite lone stand by Caddick

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

LEICESTER (second day of four): Leicestershire (22pts) beat Somerset (4) by an innings and 85 runs

LEICESTERSHIRE completed victory in less than five sessions against a desultory Somerset team...

match, a batting 31. He received a generous ovation when marching through the gate after Leicestershire had been dismissed for 271...

Although Maddy made 162 against Durham at Darling-



Wells: six wickets

ton last month, his next highest score had been 40 until he took strike in this game.

Ormond's match figures were nine for 62 and Wells returned six for 42 overall while Leicestershire held all 16 catches offered with an agility that carried the stamp of champions-elect.

Jack Birkenshaw, their cricket manager, has said that only six wins in their final six matches will suffice if Leicestershire are to edge past Surrey and so win their second championship in three years.

Harry Brind, the ECB inspector of pitches, visited the ground, as he was bound to do after the fall of 17 wickets on the first day, but David Collier, the Leicestershire chief executive, was not disconcerted.

The soul-searching can be safely left to Somerset, who were bowled out twice in a combined batting time of five hours, seven minutes.

Somerset missed the point that patience and concentration should be their priorities if they hope to salvage some pride in their second innings.

Ormond strengthened the good impression made in the first innings, while Mills showed a Bothamesque knack of taking wickets with bad balls.

Worcestershire, losing six for 166 on the day, owed their lead to two stands. Moody and Rhodes added 112 for the sixth wicket in two and a half hours, and Lampitt and Newport 47 for the eighth.

Tolley worked manfully to take his two for 66, while Franks raised his tally to 21 wickets at 17.5 in five innings.

Worcestershire were handicapped by Newport's absence (injured knee) in Nottinghamshire's second innings. But Leatherdale, surprising Gallian with whipper pace, bowled him off his inside edge in the eighth over.

His stroke-selection was faultless, especially on the leg



Magno, the Australia leg spinner, bowled 43 overs to finish with five for 83

Brittin leads record day

By SARAH POTTER

IT WAS a day for records. England made more runs in the sunshine yesterday, producing their best Test match score against Australia since the sides first met in 1934.

Which is how all the England players ought to feel. After the 5-0 drubbing inflicted by the touring side in the one-day series, some thought them ill-equipped to compete against the best team in the world.

Some frailties, though, did return. Sixteen run-outs had snuffed home hopes in the one-day matches and, when

"It was brilliant," her father, Kevin, said. "I didn't tell her Mum exactly how many she nervous because the gets too nervous. I just said, 'that's it' and we both jumped up. We're very proud."

England captured the early wicket of Belinda Clark but Lisa Keightley and Joanne Broadbent settled any Australian nerves by guiding their side to 99 for one at the close.

England captured the early wicket of Belinda Clark but Lisa Keightley and Joanne Broadbent settled any Australian nerves by guiding their side to 99 for one at the close.

Brown puts Surrey in dominant position

By JOHN STERN

THE OVAL (first day of four): Surrey won toss; Derbyshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 287 runs behind Surrey

DESPITE the strain on their resources because of injury, international calls and self-imposed disciplinary action, Surrey still established a strong position for themselves yesterday.

The late decision to omit Jason Ratcliffe, the opening batsman, for what Keith Medlycott, the Surrey coach, described as "an internal scenario" led to the remarkable comeback of Alan Butcher, 44, now the second XI coach.

Medlycott said that his side: "had run out of batters". More damaging, though, to Surrey plans is the news that Alex Tudor, 20, the promising fast bowler, will be out for up to eight weeks with a stress fracture of the foot.

Alistair Brown carried the Surrey innings to an eminently respectable and potentially match-winning total of 333 on a worn pitch that took turn straightaway. He hit 16 fours and one six in making his fourth Britannic Assurance county championship hundred of the season.

There were also some soft dismissals, notably that of Ben Hollis, who hit a full toss from Clarke straight to mid-on. Blackwell, the left-arm spinner who had bowled only 83 first-class overs before this game, took four of the first six wickets to fall and then completed his maiden five-wicket haul when Brown cut him to Slater in the gully.

Butcher, who last played for Surrey in 1986 and for Glamorgan in 1992, hit his first ball, a Blackwell full toss, for four and also hooked DeFreitas for four before playing across the line to Dean.

Derbyshire, heading 184 to avoid the follow-on, started appallingly. Slater driving Bicknell straight to mid-off in the second over. May followed in the next over after he was bowled rather unluckily, it appeared, off his arm.

Lancashire dominate as spinners take control

By RICHARD HOBSON

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 217 runs behind Lancashire

GLoucestershire have made a habit of retrieving lost ground in the second innings this season, but the situation at Old Trafford will provide those powers of recovery with the sternest test yet.

On a pitch now taking lavish turns, they allowed Lancashire to extend their first-innings lead to 286, after being 111 for three, collapsed to 158 when they replied. As a unit they seemed to lack a method for coping with the spin of Yates and Schofield.

Lancashire cannot afford to lose here as they pursue Surrey and so far the contest has gone according to plan. If Chapple and Yates, by scoring 69 and 55 respectively, suggested conditions had eased, then such thoughts were banished when Gloucestershire replied.

Wasin yoked Hancock in the second over, before Schofield and Yates began in tandem. What a message of confidence Lancashire have sent to Schofield, the young spinner. They not only picked him for a second appearance in such a vital fixture, but thrust responsibility upon him by preparing such a surprise.

Yates, fighting his off breaks into the rough, caused such many problems, though why Gloucestershire showed such a penchant to cut became increasingly hard to fathom. Cunliffe was bowled thrusting out his front pad and Hewson, top scoring with 37, looped a catch to short leg.

The dismissal of Windows soon after tea prompted capitulation with Schofield taking all of his wickets during a six-over spell. Allynay top-edged a long hop, Russell left leg before, Ball was bowled and Walsh skied to cover.

Wasin gave the new ball to Schofield, and Yates when Gloucestershire followed on 228 behind. There was just enough time remaining for Hancock to fiddle Yates to the wicketkeeper and Schofield to breach the defence of Cunliffe.

Moody's century looks decisive contribution

By JOHN THICKNESSE

KIDDERMINSTER (second day of four): Nottinghamshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 25 runs behind Worcestershire

TOM MOODY constructed a chaseless 112 for Worcestershire, taking five hours over it, and it may prove to be the decisive performance of the match. Through 19-year-old Paul Franks achieved an impressive career-best six for 63, Nottinghamshire, 125 runs behind on the first innings, probably need another 200 to leave Worcestershire a problem when they bat again.

It was a tribute to the discipline of the Nottinghamshire bowling that, though Moody was always looking for the ball to hit, he needed 241 balls for his 117 fours on a quickish outfield.

His stroke-selection was faultless, especially on the leg

side, where his hooking and pulling were lethal. But the most impressive feature of the innings was its patience: turning Wednesday night's 123 for four into a commanding position was his aim and he let nothing interfere with it.

Worcestershire, losing six for 166 on the day, owed their lead to two stands. Moody and Rhodes added 112 for the sixth wicket in two and a half hours, and Lampitt and Newport 47 for the eighth.

Tolley worked manfully to take his two for 66, while Franks raised his tally to 21 wickets at 17.5 in five innings.

Worcestershire were handicapped by Newport's absence (injured knee) in Nottinghamshire's second innings. But Leatherdale, surprising Gallian with whipper pace, bowled him off his inside edge in the eighth over.

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Defiant Smith confirms good form

By IVO TENNANT

CANTERBURY (second day of four): Kent, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 304 runs ahead of Hampshire

DESPITE bowling out Hampshire for 173 on a pitch that was starting to take spin, Kent declined to extend the follow-on. They reasoned, no doubt, that it would be best not to bat last, that the weather was set fair, and took their lead to 304 by the close of another day of sapping heat and high attendance.

Only Robin Smith batted with any conviction. The Hampshire supporters made it plain that they would like to see

him playing for England — not least when they heard that Hick was out cheaply in the fifth Test at Headingley — and there is no doubt that he is in excellent form. In the course of making 73, with 13 fours crashed through the covers and the vicinity of mid-wicket, he reached the landmark of 15,000 runs for his county.

Nobody else stayed for long. Stephenson struck three fours off McCague and was caught at third slip in the same over. Headley gained three wickets to go with the 81 runs he scored on Wednesday,

having Laney caught at short leg. White leg-before playing round his front pad and James caught off a glove in the slips.

The West Indies all-rounder removed Smith, caught at slip off one that went with the arm, and the tail went quietly, even McLean. From 143 for three, Hampshire collapsed much as Kent had done the previous day. Kent extended their lead without concerning themselves with how quickly they made their runs. Ed Smith contributed 44 before Udal had both him and House caught at slip.

He had batted almost six hours, faced 281 balls and hit a six and 33 fours in his 226, one more than Bill Edrich's record in matches between these counties, established at Edgbaston in 1947.

There were more runs to come, too, from Smith, who went on to 61. Giles and Munton before Warwickshire were all out for 466. Middlesex's only consolation was the bowling of Johnson, who looked more like the player

who was picked for an England tour three years ago in returning four for 60.

Middlesex then needed a significant contribution from Langer, the championship's leading scorer, if they were to reply in kind but they were not to get one. He was leg-before to Munton for 33. Munton had taken two wickets in six balls but Lara's hopes of further rapid progress were blunted first by Shah and then by Weekes.

Lara fails to build on grand foundations

By PAT GIBSON

LORD'S (second day of four): Middlesex, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 272 runs behind Warwickshire

BRIAN LARA had done his research overnight. When he resumed on 224 yesterday, he knew that he needed 110 more runs to beat the previous highest score at Lord's (Graham Gooch's 333 against India in 1990), 196 to double his

measly championship aggregate of 420, and 278 to surpass his own first-class record of 501.

What did Macbeth have to say about vaulting ambition which o'er-leaps itself? He had added two when he was out, leg-before to Richard Johnson, to the fourth ball he faced and had to settle instead for the more prosaic task of trying to engineer Warwickshire's fourth win in 12 championship matches.

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who was picked for an England tour three years ago in returning four for 60.

Middlesex then needed a significant contribution from Langer, the championship's leading scorer, if they were to reply in kind but they were not to get one. He was leg-before to Munton for 33. Munton had taken two wickets in six balls but Lara's hopes of further rapid progress were blunted first by Shah and then by Weekes.

Lacklustre Durham punished by Kirtley

By JACK BAILEY

EASTBOURNE (second day of four): Durham, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 344 runs behind Sussex

AN AERIAL photograph of the Saffrons is on sale at one of the many delightful stalls surrounding the playing area, but Durham's cricketers will not be queuing to purchase a copy. They may have had worse days than this, but you should not bet on it. From the beginning — when local hero, James Kirtley, led the charge that brought Sussex 138 runs from their last three wickets — to the end, by which time Durham had lost half their side in reaching three figures, they were outplayed.

his proud mother and father, he made his highest first-class score. It was also his first 50 on his home ground.

While Kirtley was peppering the boundary boards to the tune of eight fours, he received firm support in a partnership of 108 for the eighth wicket from Justin Bates. By the time Lewry had lent his long handle to the cause, Durham were on their knees. None more so than Steve Harrison who had bowled nearly 40 overs in the innings for four hard-earned wickets.

Bowling looked simpler when the ball was in the left hand of Lewry. He removed Gough's leg stump with a beauty that came back, dealt summarily with Morris and found Boon playing across a full toss to leave Durham, at 81 for five, with a hard road back.

Irani drops another reminder of his talents

By RUPERT COX

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Glamorgan, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 48 runs ahead of Essex

A PROLIFERATION of injuries in the Essex and Glamorgan camps has made consistency in the Britannic Assurance county championship an onerous task. Nonetheless, they have thrown up an intriguing contest that remains well poised.

It took a powerful half-century from Ronnie Irani to kick-start the Essex innings, after Robinson and Hodgson had added 11 runs to 40 minutes. Robinson, aiming a big shot to leg, was adjudged leg-before to Owen Parrin, allowing Irani to announce himself with three boundaries off Andrew Davies.

Irani, playing with a cracked finger, struck 51 from 80 balls, including seven fours and a six, before being dismissed by Robert Croft, leaving Paul Grayson to rebuild the innings.

Irani is enjoying his best season and, having added an extra yard of pace to his medium-pace, has scored in excess of 1,000 runs in all competitions. On present form he warrants further consideration, not least with next year's World Cup in mind.

His dismissal left Grayson to anchor the innings, with his third half-century of the season, before a low return catch gave Dean Cosker one of his three victims. Bowling for long spells in tandem with Croft, Cosker gained sufficient purchase to stifle Essex's progress.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship
Essex v Glamorgan
CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Essex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 48 runs ahead of Glamorgan

Essex: 1-17, 2-34, 3-114, 4-189, 5-191, 6-219, 7-235, 8-235, 9-235, 10-235, 11-235, 12-235
Glamorgan: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1

Kent v Hampshire
CANTERBURY (second day of four): Kent, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 304 runs ahead of Hampshire

Kent: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1
Hampshire: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1

Leicestershire v Somerset
LEICESTER (second day of four): Leicestershire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 217 runs behind Somerset

Leicestershire: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1
Somerset: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1

Lancashire v Gloucestershire
OLD TRAFFORD (second day of four): Lancashire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 217 runs behind Gloucestershire

Lancashire: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1
Gloucestershire: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1

Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire
KIDDERMINSTER (second day of four): Nottinghamshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 25 runs behind Worcestershire

Nottinghamshire: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1
Worcestershire: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1

Surrey v Derbyshire
THE OVAL (first day of four): Surrey won toss; Derbyshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 287 runs behind Surrey

Surrey: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1
Derbyshire: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1

Worcestershire v Gloucestershire
OLD TRAFFORD (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 217 runs behind Lancashire

Worcestershire: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1
Gloucestershire: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1

Essex v Glamorgan
CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Essex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 48 runs ahead of Glamorgan

Essex: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1
Glamorgan: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1

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Lancashire v Gloucestershire
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Gloucestershire: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1

Derbyshire v Surrey
THE OVAL (first day of four): Surrey won toss; Derbyshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 287 runs behind Surrey

Derbyshire: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1
Surrey: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1

Worcestershire v Gloucestershire
OLD TRAFFORD (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 217 runs behind Lancashire

Worcestershire: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1
Gloucestershire: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1

Essex v Glamorgan
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CRICKETLINE EXCLUSIVE LIVE COMMENTARY 08906 100 600

Wenger's leading's g... 8-BY-CLUB GUIDE TO THE

FOOTBALL: OFFICIALS STEP UP ATTEMPT TO SIGN ARSENAL MANAGER AS NATIONAL COACH

Wenger still seen as big in Japan

THE Japanese Football Association is proving relentless in its quest to persuade Arsene Wenger to take charge of the Japan national team in time for 2002, when they host the World Cup.

Wenger became hugely popular in Japan when he took charge of struggling Nagoya Grampus Eight in 1995 and the following year guided the J-League side to victory in the Emperor's Cup, the first big trophy for the club.

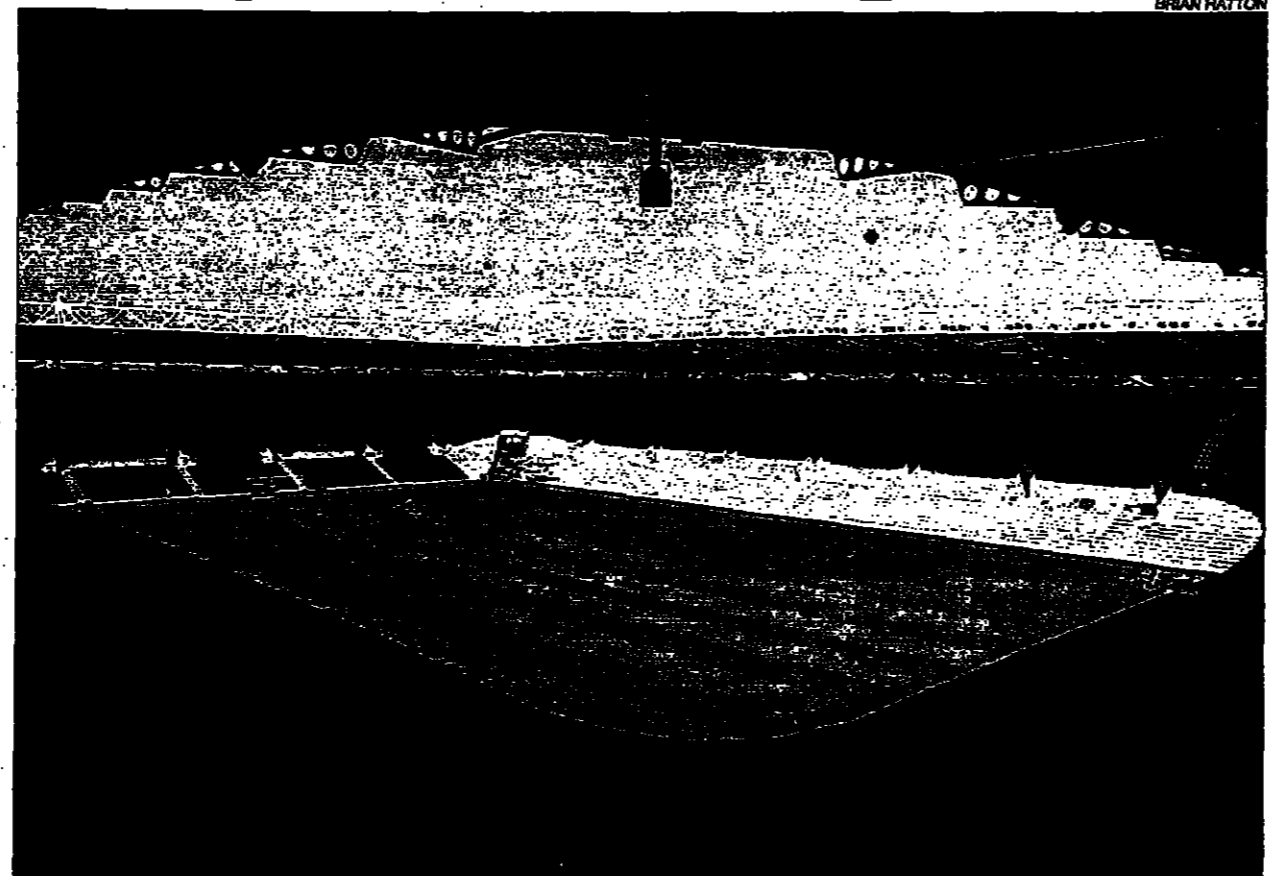
Wenger himself has great memories of his time in Asia. "I have always thought that one day I would go back to work there," he said only last month. "If the Japanese want me to coach their team at the next World Cup, then that's a big honour."

Wolves is Jason Roberts, another forward, who made his international debut for Grenada last season. He has moved to Bristol Rovers for £250,000.

Reading's grounds for optimism

Russell Kempson sees a fresh start for an ailing club at its new stadium

ON MAY 30, as the band played long into the night in a large marquee pitched on the centre circle, many of the diners drifted out to pay their final respects to Elm Park.



At a cost of £37 million, the 25,000-capacity Madejski Stadium replaces Elm Park, Reading's home for 102 years

inaugural game, as he did the last time off-Reading's limp departure from the first division last season. He has been based in Kuala Lumpur for the past five months while setting up the launch of Malaysia Motor Trader.

There is also the not insignificant matter of the recent sale of his Hurst Publishing empire, for which — the taxman has presumably already noted — he received £174 million.

one of his few failures since leaving the Reading Evening Post, where he worked in the advertising department, in 1976 and starting the hugely profitable Auto Trader series.

quick fix and I do not have a magic wand, but if we can create a foundation and install some solid principles here, then we can move on to the next stage.

CLUB-BY-CLUB GUIDE TO THE SECOND DIVISION

BLACKPOOL: Manager: Nigel Worthington (Jul 1997). IN: Steve Bushell (free from York), Jason Burt (free from Leeds), Steve Garvey (free from QPR), Lee Phipps (free to QPR), Mark Stammers (free from Cardiff), Paul Carter (free to Rotherham), Andy Pearce (free to Burnley), Jason Lydiate (free to Scarborough). Championship odds: 33-1.

PRESTON NORTH END: Manager: Dave Moggi (Jan 1998). IN: None. OUT: Tony Lovell (undisclosed to Mansfield), Dean Barker (free to Burnley). Championship odds: 33-1.

STOCKPORT GRAND PRIX: Manager: 10000. IN: Mike Green (US \$100,000), A. Bolton (undisclosed to Mansfield), Dean Barker (free to Burnley). Championship odds: 33-1.

ATHLETICS: Manager: Brian Little (May 1998). IN: David Oatfield (free from Luton), Bryan Small (free from Bolton), Chris Short (free from Sheffield United), Phil McKelvey (free to Dundee Utd), Phil Morgan (free to Macclesfield). Championship odds: 9-1.

CRICKET: SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Second day of four. Southampton, Sussex 430 R. R. Taylor 76, P. W. Jones 76 not out; Hampshire 275 (R. Marsh 102, P. Wisden 57) 2nd day of three. Leicestershire 276 (R. H. Jones 102, P. Wisden 57) 2nd day of three.

Hendrie setting out to repeat Wilson miracle

Mark Hodgkinson says Barnsley spirits are still high despite the end of the great Premiership adventure

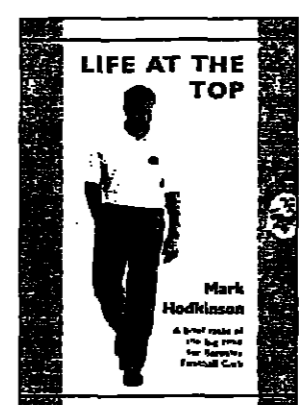
THE Gyroscope had come to town, a huge spinning globe that reached speeds faster than your average washing-machine. One victim was left with a blue-black face and the white of his eyes turned crimson.

for a second, questioned Wilson's commitment. The rest of the nation remained a tad cynical. They knew the code, for in football, the truth is a line drawn in the sand on a windy day.

big or clever, but the habitual on-the-hoop strategy that still epitomises much of big-time football.

Barnsley's great adventure is over, and Charlton Athletic have become the new torchbearers for dreamers and idealists. Barnsley tried, boy they tried, but the might of their moneyed peers in the FA Carling Premiership was finally too much and they have now slipped into the long night that is the Nationwide League.

Mark Hodgkinson's series in The Times about Barnsley forms the basis of his new book, Life at the Top



Mark Hodgkinson's series in The Times about Barnsley forms the basis of his new book, Life at the Top

Alan Curbsley, the Charlton manager, has already revealed their game plan. "We're going to have to try and do a Leicester," he said this week.

Danny is Judas." Almost 12,000 season tickets had been sold up to the day that Wilson left. Many supporters suspected that there had been an agreement in place from the end of the season.

Whereas it was a perpetual also-ran and no one much cared, it is now a club with dignity and respect

FOR THE RECORD

CRICKET: BIRMINGHAM LEAGUE: First day of four. Birmingham 194 (D. G. Jones 102, P. Wisden 57) 2nd day of three. Leicestershire 276 (R. H. Jones 102, P. Wisden 57) 2nd day of three.

ROWING: OTTERHEIM: Austria: World Junior Championships. Men's Eight: Second round. First round: 1. Great Britain 6:20.30, 2. Russia 6:32.10, 3. Egypt 6:39.36. Single sculls: Second round: 1. Great Britain 7:21.24, 2. Japan 7:27.52, 3. Holland 7:31.24. Fourth round: 1. Ireland 7:15.61, 2. Italy 7:16.52, 3. Ukraine 7:17.47. Women's Eight: First round: 1. Great Britain 6:50.49, 2. Great Britain 7:01.33, 3. Canada 7:01.24, 4. Italy 7:01.33, 5. Netherlands 7:01.33, 6. Italy 7:01.33, 7. Canada 7:01.33, 8. Italy 7:01.33, 9. Canada 7:01.33, 10. Italy 7:01.33, 11. Canada 7:01.33, 12. Italy 7:01.33, 13. Canada 7:01.33, 14. Italy 7:01.33, 15. Canada 7:01.33, 16. Italy 7:01.33, 17. Canada 7:01.33, 18. Italy 7:01.33, 19. Canada 7:01.33, 20. Italy 7:01.33, 21. Canada 7:01.33, 22. Italy 7:01.33, 23. Canada 7:01.33, 24. Italy 7:01.33, 25. Canada 7:01.33, 26. Italy 7:01.33, 27. Canada 7:01.33, 28. Italy 7:01.33, 29. Canada 7:01.33, 30. Italy 7:01.33, 31. Canada 7:01.33, 32. Italy 7:01.33, 33. 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Ulster couple still hopeful of achieving farewell victory

Gumdrop on bitter-sweet quest

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent

SKANDIA Life Cowes Week is a long way from Strangford Lough in Co Down, one of the most enchanting stretches of sheltered water in the British Isles...

The Doug Peterson-designed Contessa 33, which has been owned for the last ten years by Tom and Dianne Andrews...

She is also distinguished as almost certainly the only boat from there to have won a class at Cowes in recent years. In 1994 she took the honours in Class 4.

This year Dianne Andrews, who both skippers and navigates, had hoped to repeat that feat but Class 4, the biggest of the CHS classes at the regatta...

At the head of the class and exerting a considerable psychological hold on his rivals is Peter Bruce at the tiller of the Contessa 33, Owl.

The other top boats include Nigel Theadom's Crake... and yesterday, in Caribbean conditions, she sailed away from the fleet to win convincingly...

In the X-One Design fleet, Alastair Ashford, in Relaxation, took another step towards securing his first Captain's Cup with a fifth place in a race won by Stuart Jardine, on Lone Star.

Ashford's nearest rival in the overall points, Peter Baines on Red Coral, slipped slightly to finish eleventh, giving Ashford an eight-point margin with just two races to come.

In the Sonar Class, Brian Orr on Biscuit, is putting together a strong series with a third yesterday to follow a second on Wednesday and three wins on the trot before that.

Rob Smith, the International Melges 24 national champion, is heading the Melges fleet comfortably on Henri Lloyd's Rapid Breathing and posted his third win yesterday in a series in which he is yet to finish lower than fifth.



The massed ranks of the X-One fleet jockey for position before the start yesterday

RESULTS FROM COWES WEEK

NEW YORK YACHT CLUB CHALLENGE CUP (Class 1 and Maxis): 1, Victor 4 (T Mulder); 2, Independent Bear (K Hobday); 3, J Lance (M Hays and S Hawthorn)...

Advertisement for Thresher wine. It features a bottle of wine in the center, surrounded by decorative elements like leaves and berries. The text 'SAVES £1.09. DUTY FREE' is written in a large, stylized font across the bottle. Below the bottle, it says 'Guaranteed to bring a smile to your lips' and 'Also available at www.thresherwineshop.co.uk'.

Advertisement for Thresher wine. It features the Thresher logo in a large, bold font. Below the logo, it says 'Guaranteed to bring a smile to your lips' and 'Also available at www.thresherwineshop.co.uk'. At the bottom, there is a small text block: 'This is one of the many special offers worth checking out at participating Thresher Wine Shop and runs until 19/8/98 or while stocks last. No further discounts apply including shareholders discount. Available to UK residents only, aged 18 and over. Prices correct when going to press.'

May I have the bill please?

Celebrity Ready Steady Cook BBC1, 7.00pm Sergeant Bob Coyer and Sergeant June Ackland are two of the original characters of The Bill...



The Bill stars Eric Richard and Trudie Goodwin with Fern Britton (BBC1, 7.30pm)

Gardeners' World BBC2, 8.30pm Radio 4's Gardeners' Question Time has been doing it since 1947 and several Channel 4 programmes include it as a regular feature...

Flash Channel 4, 11.40pm The first Men's Fashion Week to be held in London is the subject of a documentary which was originally called Striker Posing...

Verdict ITV, 8.00pm Tonight's courtroom drama is clearly pitched at followers of EastEnders, because two of the soap's former stalwarts play central roles...

Friday Play: 56 Per Cent Acrylic Radio 4, 9.00pm An impressive first radio play by David Harrower, whose dialogue has stylistic touches reminiscent of Eliot...

Strictly Dancehall Radio 4, 11.00pm This is the first of a three-part series on the great European dancehalls and programme one is a wonderfully evocative and informative tour...

World Service 7.00am News 7.30 Inight 7.30 Latest from Britain 7.45 The Money Makers 8.00 News 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 Music 8.45 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 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Alfredsson puts her case for defence at Gleneagles

SPORT

FRIDAY AUGUST 7 1998

FOOTBALL 45

Reading have grounds for optimism in new season

England surrender initiative after opener's century in fifth Test at Headingley

Butcher builds before collapse

Brave century deserving of full house

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

HEADINGLEY (first day of five, England won toss): South Africa, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 221 runs behind England

ON A day infused with adrenalin and expectation, the calming authority required by England came not from one of the sages of the side, but from its most junior batsman. Mark Butcher chose this moment to graduate from promise to maturity but his first Test match century was dramatically undermined in an evening session that swung this decisive final Test South Africa's way.

An hour after tea, England were 181 for three. Butcher and Mark Ramprakash apparently gaining them a settled foothold. Within another hour, South Africa had forcibly dislodged them. Six wickets fell for 22 runs and Makhaya Ntini, the first black cricketer to represent South Africa, decorated his young career with figures of four for 72.

An all-out total of 230 was substantially below par, even on a pitch already showing signs of unevenness. It does not discount an England rally, especially on a ground where the unexpected is mere routine, but it insulted the towering contribution of Butcher. Remarkably, the next highest score was Dominic Cork's unbeaten 24.

Headingley was cocooned in murk for much of the day, the sunshine of the south stubbornly ceasing ten miles short of Leeds. For England, however, the horizons were bright so long as Butcher remained. While the five senior batsmen came and went cheaply, Butcher single-handedly consolidated the advantage gained by winning the toss.

South Africa, however, did not relax their pressure. They seldom do. Their battery of right-arm seam bowlers probed and pushed and, as the sun broke through the veneer of cloud, they claimed rich reward. When Butcher erred after 318 minutes of application, dragging a ball from Shaun Pollock into his middle stump, England suffered a collapse that was both damagingly untimely and depressingly familiar.

Andrew Flintoff was out third ball, to yet another umpiring decision of dubious merit, and 40 minutes of torment for Graeme Hick ended in a cut to cover. Ian Salisbury's rapid demise meant England had lost four wickets for four runs.

It might have been worse if Allan Donald, the inspiration of these South Africans, had not endured a day of disorientation. His lofty ambitions for what will surely be his last Test in this country were derailed by a buffeting cross-

wind and the confusing cambers of Headingley. Donald fretted through two spells from the Kirkstall Lane end, regularly aborting his run-up and grimacing both with pain from his ongoing heel injury and frustration at his lack of rhythm and line. England did lose two wickets to him when he switched ends in mid-afternoon, and a third when he took the new ball against the final pair, but this must count as a reprieve.

The promised cricket fever was not strictly evident as the game began to acres of empty seats on the Western Terrace and a number of unoccupied corporate boxes. The crowd here, for a day on which so much depended, was barely 10,000, no more than had watched Surrey's floodlit Axa League game on Wednesday. England had selected an unchanged team, though not without debate. The selectors and senior players were divided on the merits of including a spin bowler, Salisbury keeping out Mullally only narrowly. For the sake of variety, it was a welcome move but South Africa did the opposite, their inclusion of McMillan, rather than either spinner, giving them a team top-heavy with seam and long on batting after the events of yesterday evening, they will feel vindicated.

Nothing seemed less likely as England proceeded serenely through the morning. The pitch, it was immediately plain, had no great pace and Donald's troubles were compounded by the tendency of the other seamers to bowl at Butcher's legs, a tactic he considered obnoxious.

Those who thirsted after a resumption of hostilities between Donald and Atherton were disappointed. For almost half an hour, Donald bowled exclusively at Butcher and his initial spell of seven overs contained only six balls to Atherton, who was then out driving crookedly at a ball from Ntini.

Butcher had an occasional alarm, usually when he decided to cut, but his driving on both sides of the wicket was imperious and his judgment of what to leave immaculate. A break for rain did not distract him but Nasser Hussain, having just driven Pollock majestically for four, was caught behind off his glove, early evidence that this pitch was not entirely placid.

Alec Stewart was intent on playing in the same style with which he finished the game at Trent Bridge, but after three early boundaries, he was checked by South Africa's fallback tactic of bowling wide of off stump. Frustrated, he drove at Donald and was



Butcher salutes his first Test century and the tenth of his career

taken at second slip. Butcher remained unmoved, his shot selection impressive and his concentration unwavering through the 70s that have often been his undoing. He

reached the tenth century of his career, and his first on this ground, with an edge but most of his 174 runs were struck with fluency.

He had made 101 out of 150 from the bat at that stage and his dominance of the day did not diminish. Once Ramprakash had gone to a bottom edge, England's resistance was negligible.

QUEL DOMMAGE. What a let-down. Dear, dear.

All week the Yorkshire club was telling anybody who would listen that folk from all over the Ridings were battering down the gates at Headingley to see this decisive Test match and yesterday the ground was half empty. The Western Terrace was populated almost entirely by the crack squad of police spotters, some as young as eight. For large chunks of the day it was also eerily silent, as though the players were involved in some dream play.

Spectators had come to see England assert themselves as confidently as they had done at Nottingham, where the summer really began. Instead they saw them dismissed for 230 after winning the toss. It was a familiar tale, of hopes raised and dashed, though there is still a good game on if England can bowl decisively on this two-paced pitch, and hold their catches.

Once again there were some peculiar decisions, which this time went the South Africans' way. Bob Woolmer, their coach, would not be drawn afterwards, sensible chap. He knows the world is full of tricks.

Thank goodness for Mark Butcher, who supplied half the runs England made with an ease that mocked everybody else's efforts. Butcher began this summer as one of the possibles, and will end it feeling a good deal more confident of his ability to breach the gap between county cricket and the stuff they play in Tests.

"At Trent Bridge I felt in at least 'good' 'tick' as I did here, probably better," he said afterwards. "The more you play, the more you get used to it and the more fluent you become." He thought the pitch had "some demons in it and we've got 230 on the board. It's the sort of pitch when, if you have two men in on a wicket, the game can change pretty quickly."

Butcher has begun to forge a good partnership this summer with Atherton. Although the former captain has taken the eye, with that excellent hundred in the first Test at Edgbaston, and his superb unbeaten 98 at Nottingham,

MICHAEL HENDERSON



At Headingley

Butcher has looked an increasingly confident mate. Atherton rates him as a good team man, something that is apparent from the straightforward way he plays his cricket. In that first Test he contributed 77 to an opening stand of 179 before he swept Adams down long-leg's throat. At Trent Bridge he batted quite splendidly for 75 until he received one of many decisions in that finger-happy Test that aroused comment. When he edged the boundary that brought up his hundred yesterday he was entitled to recall that moment.

"It was a pretty special feeling," he said. "From the team's point of view it was disappointing to finish as we did but from a personal point of view nothing can change the fact that I've made a Test hundred. I've got it now and they can't take it away from me."

He drove beautifully, as he had done at Trent Bridge, and picked up plenty of runs off his legs as John Edrich, a predecessor at Surrey, used to do. In the end he was bowled as he dragged on an attacking stroke against Pollock, just when England needed him to bat through. "Graeme (Hick) was on a wicket, the new ball would soon be available, and it was a crucial stage of the innings."

The common feeling, he said, is that England had missed an opportunity, but they could still bowl themselves back into the game.

SCOREBOARD FROM HEADINGLEY

Table with columns for ENGLAND: First Innings, SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings, and FALL OF WICKETS. Lists players, runs, and overs.

TIMES CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-22 and a list of clues.

No 1478

- ACROSS: 7 Centre; compassion (5), 8 Holiday visitor (7), 9 Sickeningly sentimental (7), 10 S. Am. mammal; sounds like a spill (5), 11 Certain (4), 12 Prostrating headache (8), 15 Will-maker (8), 16 Group; team; stripe (4), 19 Forcibly pull (away) (5), 21 Flat-bladed spoon (7), 22 Triumph in hope over experience (Dr Johnson) (7), 23 Freight (5). DOWN: 1 "Sweet --, run softly" (Spenser) (6), 2 Dummy-figure shadow (8), 3 Long thin piece; undress (5), 4 The arts; bacteria grown in nutrients (7), 5 Flaccid (4), 6 Die of hunger (6), 8 1812 composer (11), 13 Fast; needing to rush (2,1,5), 14 Cross on flag (7), 15 Frustrate (6), 17 Fire-breathing monster (6), 18 Progress of army; early spring (5), 20 Immemorial trees where doves mourned (Tennyson) (4).

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP. NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE. Lists crossword books for sale.

Remarkable rise into freefall

THE fall from grace of Michelle Smith, triple Olympic champion who was served with a four-year suspension yesterday, not only ended the most remarkable rise to fame in swimming but exposed one of the most blatant cases of attempting to evade drugs tests that the sport has seen.

The charge of manipulation against Smith, 28, was the first of its kind in swimming. She had deliberately attempted to spoil a urine specimen provided to out-of-competition testers at her home in Killeney on January 10 by placing alcohol in it. The Fina doping panel concluded yesterday.

The Barcelona laboratory that tested the specimen noted that "the content of alcohol in the sample [concentration higher than 100mg/ml] is in no way compatible with human consumption and the sample shows a very strong whiskey odour. Its low specific gravity is also compatible with physical manipulation." The Times understands that the testers, Al and Kay Guy, representing International Doping and Tests Management (IDTM), the Swedish agency employed to conduct the governing body's out-of-competition testing programme, were kept waiting for half an hour at the gates of Smith's home when they arrived there at about 8am on January 10. The gates were chained and bolted. When Smith came down to the gates, it was evident that there would

Craig Lord on a decision that ends the fairytale for Michelle Smith

be an air of friction about proceedings; Smith unlocked the bolt but left the Guys to undo the chains and open the gates themselves. Smith provided two samples, the first was too small in quantity, while the second, produced some 20 minutes later, had a strong smell of alcohol about it. The Guys sent a fax back to IDTM registering that fact and their concerns on the day of the test.



Smith, pictured yesterday, faces a four-year ban

concluded that the urine had not been manipulated by the laboratory, nor by those who transported it to Barcelona, nor the testers. It noted that the method of manipulation used by Smith was "uncertain" but that she had clearly infringed rules designed to prevent anything that "alters the integrity and validity of urine samples". Suggested methods of manipulation include placing a condom containing the alcohol in the vagina.

Harm Beyer, the German judge who chaired the doping panel, faced the decision to suspend Smith to the Dublin offices of Peter Lennon, her solicitor, at 9am yesterday. Beyer told The Times that the judgement had been a long and difficult process but "in the end it was clear -- no one else could possibly have done it". He said that the Fina rule by which swimmers can be stripped of medals won in the six months before an adverse doping test only applied in "category one" cases, that is to say those found to have taken such substances as anabolic steroids. As such, Smith will keep her Olympic medals and two European titles from 1997. Smith, who a month before the Atlanta Games married Erik de Bruin, the former Dutch discus-thrower who was suspended from athletics in 1993 after failing a drugs test, received a warning from Fina in January 1997 because she had twice failed to make herself available for tests.

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